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8 AUGUST 1986

## Near East/South Asia Report

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8 AUGUST 1986

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/12223

ASALA CITES 'TURKISH COMPLICITY' IN MURDER OF ARMENIANS

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 31 May 86 p 1

[Text] The murder of Armenians in the last four days in Beirut was widely reported in various papers. ASALA [Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia] also raised its voice on this occasion claiming that the Turks also had a role in the killing of the Armenians and vowing to punish severely the perpetrators of these murders.

The report was filed by Robert Fisk, the Beirut correspondent of the London TIMES. The correspondent writes that Armenians living in West Beirut and the Marash quarter of East Beirut are extremely worried.

As we reported yesterday, a Shiite group calling itself the "Organization for the Liberation of the Kidnaped in the Civil War" claimed responsibility for the series of murders committed against Armenians. It is well known that in the last 10 years the Lebanese-Armenians have tried to remain absolutely neutral in the civil war, particularly with respect to Muslims and Christians. This posture, which worked well so far, has displeased the Shiites who want to have the Armenians on their side or to prevent them from joining hands with the Christians. The organization that claimed responsibility for the killings stated that it wishes to see the neutrality of the Armenians to end.

But the TIMES correspondent writes that some Armenian leaders believe that the Turks had a hand in the latest killings. One leader, who wishes to remain anonymous, said: "The situation in West Beirut is very grave. Our Turkish enemies are doing everything to create confusion among Armenians in both Lebanon and elsewhere in the world." The TIMES correspondent also interviewed the Armenian Catholicos [of Cilicia] and leaders of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation. An Armenian shopkeeper in West Beirut said: "A systematic campaign is being waged to wipe us out."

ASALA issued a communique in Arabic and called on the 400,000 Armenians living in Lebanon to declare a general strike to protest the killings. ASALA, which the TIMES states is responsible for hundreds of terrorist incidents, blamed the fascists for the recent murders of Armenians. The communique said: "We will teach a severe lesson to the fascists. Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth."

9588

CSO: 4605/49

CAPUTRED SOLDIER DESCRIBES TROOP MORALE IN SAHARAN POSTS

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 12 June 86 p 5

[Text] Liberated Territories (RASD)--Married for only 3 months, Private First Class Chibab Mohammed, regimental number 13799/79, of the 1st Battalion stationed in the Dakhla sector, was quite recently captured by the ALPS.

Despite several days' travel over hundreds of kilometers for presentation to the Algerian national press responsible for covering the anniversary of the death of the Caid Mustapha Sayed El Ouali, and although still suffering from the effects of a bullet wound in his right shoulder, Chibab Mohammed wished to describe the morale of Moroccan troops stationed in Western Sahara occupied territories.

Born of a poor family in Sefrou (district of Fez) in 1961, he was obliged to enlist in the Army in February 1981. After 9 months' training at Tedla he was immediately sent to the Western Sahara where he was captured at 2330 last Thursday night after an attack on his post by Sahrouis soldiers.

He confirmed the information received from the prisoner Mekhifi Ahmed about the death of two lieutenant colonels and on the negative effect of this heroic ALPS action on troop morale and particularly on the ordinary soldiers who constitute the greater part of the Moroccan armed forces in the Western Sahara.

If they had the chance, a great number of these soldiers would flee, surrender, or commit suicide. For example, he told us how a private fled, trying to surrender to the Polisario Front. But he was quickly captured and imprisoned at Kenitra. Another failed to report after his leave.

This clearly seems to be the only remaining way out for the Moroccan soldier, caught in the crossfire of discrimination and nepotism of the Royal Army officers and the multiple attacks by ALPS guerrillas.

9772

CSO: 4519/129



SAND DEPOSIT PROBLEMS IN LAAYOUNE AREA

Casablanca LA VIE ECONOMIQUE in French 13 Jun 86 p 10

[Text] The problem of sand deposits affects several roads in the Moroccan network and can present two very different aspects:

--Regular sand deposits occurring on relatively short sections of road (a few hundred meters), where the deposits are a few dozen cm deep.

Clearing away the sand is generally done manually or with a road scraper. In some cases the problem may be corrected by stabilizing the neighboring dunes by plantings.

--Generalized sand deposits, principally found in the provinces of Laayoune, Boujdour, and Oued Eddahab, can reach 10 meters in height and extend over several kilometers. The most characteristic section is between Laayoune and its port, which has sand deposits for 7 km.

Each year nearly 1 million cubic meters of sand goes over this section: the sand dunes move and invade the road. It was necessary to constitute a special brigade to work on this problem for 24 hours daily. Sometimes it was even necessary to call up a specialized road company when the brigade based at Laayoune (although very hard working) was unequal to the task.

The problem of sand deposits on the Erfoud road has also been noted.

Clearing away the sand is all well and good, but the engineers prefer that the sand should not invade their roads. Thus, they are seeking to perfect techniques to prevent this.

In 1981-82 they tried to spread a film of petroleum products over the 141,000 square meters in order to neutralize the dunes at the sides of the road, but the effect did not last very long and other dunes came to cover the ones which had been coated. Everything had to be done over.

Now they are working on another technique: installing wind protection screens with accelerators on the side of the road to prevent [the formation of] sand deposits on the roadway. Two experimental sites are giving encouraging results; but before embarking on this very expensive method DRCR wishes to

study this technique in depth. It wishes in particular to study the different parameters which determine the dimension and the position of the "wind accelerator" screens for preventing the formation of dunes on the roadways, while using the very energy that formed them: the wind. It also launched a reduced model laboratory experiment.

The ideal would be to discover the fundamental origin of the problem of dune formation and to "trap" the sand, perhaps on beaches, before the wind carries it away. It is suspected, however, without being able to verify the .pa hypothesis fully, that a several thousand-kilometer circuit [of wind] develops between the Atlantic Ocean and the north of the African continent.

9772

CSO: 4519/129



## BRIEFS

COOPERATION WITH USSR—The Soviet Ambassador to Morocco, Malik Sabirovich Fazylov, in early April held a lengthy meeting with the representatives of the national press at the premises of the Soviet Embassy in Rabat during which he replied to a number of questions pertaining to the current issues on the regional and international levels as well as to co-operation between the USSR and Morocco. Referring to co-operation between the USSR and Morocco, the ambassador pointed out that the two countries call for the development of bilateral co-operation between them, recalling in this respect the start of the second stage of the Meskala mines project with the co-operation of the USSR and also the start of the prospection for phosphate. Fazylov said that a Moroccan delegation will be formed to take part in the negotiations for the construction of a dam and an electric power station at Mejara, pointing out that the two countries have reached agreement on intensive marketing of Moroccan phosphate. The Soviet Ambassador also disclosed that a delegation of Soviet experts was due in Rabat next March to discuss co-operation in the field of sea fishing. [Text] [Paris AFRICAN DEFENCE JOURNAL in English Jun 86 p 6] /9274

AGADIR TC EXPORT FROZEN FISH--A group of Spanish, Italian and Japanese businessmen went to Agadir to study that port's capabilities for exporting frozen fish to the Far East and Europe, particularly Italy. Their studies being favorable, these international businessmen approved the large Moroccan port, declaring it could assume such a task. Thanks to this international cooperation one may now hope for a rapid and large extension of marketing of deep sea fishing catches off the Moroccan coast. It is to be noted that this will be a major new development in activities of ports of the Southern Kingdom. [Text] [Casablanca LA VIE ECONOMIQUE in French 6 Jun 86 p 9] 9772

CSO: 4519/129

## GOVERNMENT REFORM PACKAGE REVIEWED

London MEED in English 5 Jul 86 pp 26, 29

## [Text] A wide-ranging package of economic

reforms has been drawn up by the government, in an attempt to avert the need for IMF help in the next development plan (1987-91). The need for reform has been made more pressing by the collapse in the oil price, which prompted a 21 per cent drop in exports in the first quarter of 1986.

The package has been worked out by the Planning Ministry with advice from the World Bank and the IMF, with which talks have been under way since September 1985. It will be supported by two sectoral loans from the World Bank, totalling roughly \$130 million, devoted to the reform of agricultural and industrial policy.

The package, approved by President Bourguiba in June, includes various food price rises and a 10-14 per cent devaluation of the dinar. The price of bread is to go up by about 15 per cent -- the last attempt to double the price, in January 1984, provoked widespread rioting. The government has since been reluctant to make any further changes. About 80,000 of the poorest families will be compensated by grants ranging from TD 80-150 (\$110-200) a family.

The devaluation is designed to increase the competitiveness of non-oil exports -- particularly agricultural and manufactured goods. This will be a key element of the next five-year plan, for which preparations started at the end of 1985. Efforts will be made to reduce losses of public-sector

companies and to promote the private sector. The minimum wage for farm and industrial workers will be increased slightly, although union demands for wage increases in line with inflation will be resisted.

Other key elements of the programme are:

□ Further cuts in government spending and a review of new investment projects. The 1986 budget will be cut by TD 60 million (\$82 million), of which TD 40 million (\$55 million) comes from the investment budget. The investment budget was already severely reduced in the original 1986 budget (MEED 14:12:85).

□ Elimination of investment controls for small-scale projects and tax amnesties, to create a climate of confidence for private investors. A committee will be set up to suggest reforms of public-sector companies.

□ Price rises on soya products, corn, fertilisers, milk, sugar and cooking oil, in an attempt to reduce the subsidy burden. Bread and wheat product prices, which prompted the 1984 riots, will also rise, but by a smaller amount.

□ Changes to the trade regime, including an end to price controls, elimination of import restrictions on raw materials, spare parts and semi-finished goods, and changes to the system of annual import licences. Tariff policy will be reformed in the 1987 budget and a maximum customs duty of 50 per cent will be fixed.

/9274

CSO: 4500/168

## TUNISIA

### BRIEFS

**RAW MATERIALS**--The local development bank Beit Ettamwil Saudi Tounsi (BEST Bank) has signed a \$50 million credit to finance raw materials imports for local exporters. The agreement, signed with the central bank on 19 June, is designed to provide short-term funds to up to 12 months' maturity for local companies until they can generate the money to repay the loan by manufacture and export of finished goods. The terms for each transaction will be worked out on a case-by-case basis by negotiations between BEST Bank, the exporter and the foreign supplier. A list of local companies drawn up by the Finance & Economy Ministry will be given priority access to the credit, which is arranged according to Islamic banking practice. BEST Bank is part of the Saudi Arabia-based Al-Baraka group. [Text] [London MEED in English 5 Jul 86 p 29] /9274

**REDUCED TRADE DEFICIT**--The trade deficit fell by 3 percent to TD207 million (\$282 million) in the first quarter of 1986, compared with the equivalent period of 1985, according to figures published in the local daily LaPresse. Exports fell by 21 percent to TD 283.6 million (\$668.4 million), mainly because of a 48 percent fall in oil exports and a 31 percent drop in phosphate sales, the report says. But the fall in exports was compensated for by a 14 percent drop in the import bill, to TD 490.6 million (\$668.4 million). [Text] [London MEED in English 5 Jul 86 p 29] /9274

**SPECIAL BACCALAUREATE SESSION**--President Bourguiba has announced that a special session of the baccalaureat examination will be held in September to allow pupils that failed earlier in 1986 to retake the test. The president decided on the change after hearing that only 13 percent of entrants had passed. Bourguiba blamed the poor results on the recent strikes causing students to miss their classes. A commission has been set up to consider reforms to the baccalaureat--including a return to the division of the baccalaureat into two stages. [Text] [London MEED in English 5 Jul 86 p 29] /9274

**NEW HEAD OF TUNIS AIR**--The new head of Tunis Air is Hedi Attia. He replaces Mohamed Belhadj, who is serving a 61-month prison term for alleged customs violations (MEED 26:4:86). [Text] [London MEED in English 5 Jul 86 p 29] /9274

UNIVERSITY REORGANIZATION--After the meeting of Tunisian officials with President Bourguiba, Abdelaziz Ben Dhia (Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research) made the following statement: "As an emphasis to the directives of HE the President of the Republic with regard to the returning of the university to its basic function, that is teaching, as protection of the freedom of lectures, and of the right of every citizen to study in an atmosphere of reassurance, and as an effort to eliminate the chaos which is caused by some extremist groups in some university establishments. HE has decided the following: First, the setting up of three universities, which are the University of Tunis, the University of the Centre and the University of the South. The first one includes all the faculties and institutes of Higher Education of Tunis, Bizert and Nabeul. The second, the University of the Centre, includes the university establishments situated in Monastir, Sousse and Kairouan. The University of the South will include the institutes of Higher Education of Sfax, Gabes and Gafsa. [Text] [Paris AFRICAN DEFENCE JOURNAL in English Jun 86 p 7] /9274

RAILWAY COOPERATION WITH HUNGARY--The agreement founding a joint venture involved in manufacture and sales of railway facilities was signed in Tunis by Adam Juhasz, general manager of the Ganz-Mavag company of Hungary; Rezso Bajusz, director-in-chief of the Hungarian state railways; and the heads of the Tunisian company involved. The joint venture, called Ganz-Tunisia and to cooperate as a stock company, was founded principally to manufacture railway carriages and facilities for the Tunisian railway. Specialists from the two Hungarian companies are to provide technical, planning and technological assistance in starting up production. Present at the signing of the contract was Lajos Urban, Hungary's Minister of Transport, who during his stay in Tunisia held talks with Rachid Sfar, Minister of National Economy, and Mohamed Kraeim, Minister of Transport. [Text] [Paris AFRICAN DEFENCE JOURNAL in English Jun 86 p 7] /9274

ACHOUR DENIED PERMISSION TO LEAVE--In spite of the letter that he sent to President Habib Bourguiba, in which he stressed that he did not aspire to succeed him and that he is suffering from a grave illness, permission to leave Tunisia will not be granted to Habib Achour, former secretary general of the Tunisian General Federation of Labor (UGTT). A high-level Tunisian source confirmed this to AL-MUSTAQBAL, pointing out that there are, in Tunisia, medical specialists who have a wide range of experience, who could care for Mr Achour. /Text/ /London AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 28 Jun 86 p 9/ 12228

PURCHASE OF EGYPTIAN PLANES--Next week, a Tunisian Air Force delegation will begin an official visit to Egypt, at the invitation of the Egyptian Arab Manufacturing Co. A company official told the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, published in Abu Dhabi, that the Tunisian delegation will study the capabilities of the Egyptian Alpha Jet aircraft which is intended for training and attack support in preparation for the conclusion of a deal for the purchase of 20 planes of this model. The commander of the Tunisian Air Force visited Cairo last week and had examined the Arab Manufacturing Co.'s production of the said aircraft. /Text/ /Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 8 Jul 86 p 1/ 12228

PARDON SOUGHT FOR MESTIRI--A well-informed Arab source stated that two prominent Western ambassadors in Tunis are currently making contacts to persuade President Habib Bourguiba to issue a "special pardon" to Ahmed Mestiri, the leader of the Movement of Socialist Democrats which is in opposition to the current Tunisian regime. Mestiri was sentenced to 4 months in jail, and the Appeals Court upheld this decision in the beginning of June. The reason for Mestiri's legal prosecution was that he had led demonstrations against the American attack on Libya. The sources explained that the two Western ambassadors had interceded on Mestiri's behalf and are making efforts to get a "presidential pardon" issued for him. This is to allow him and his party to participate in parliamentary elections that will take place next November. If the pardon is not issued, then Mestiri will not legally be able to participate in these elections. /text/  
/London AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 5 Jul 86 p 8/ 12228

CSO: 4504/381

## TERRORIST ATTACK ELICITS EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FROM USSR

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 1 Jul 86 p 1

[Text]

MOSCOW, June 30 (KUNA): The Soviet Union said today it was very concerned over the security and stability of Kuwait and renewed condemnation of the recent explosions at the Ahmadi oil installations.

"We are concerned over Kuwait's stability and security, as obligated by our traditionally good ties with this Gulf state," the head of the Gulf department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Ivanov Galystan, said.

Addressing a news conference for the Kuwaiti press corps in Moscow, Galystan said the Soviet Ambassador in Kuwait, Pogos Akopov, had delivered a note of condemnation to the Kuwait Foreign Ministry over the Ahmadi blasts.

Galystan said Moscow was ready to discuss terrorism and ways to curb its dangers with Arab countries.

He said the Omani Ambassador to Jordan was expected to present within the next few days his credentials as non-resident ambassador to the Soviet Union. Oman and the Soviet Union agreed last Sept 26 to establish diplomatic ties at the ambassadorial level.

Galystan renewed his country's desire to reopen diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia if Riyadh agreed. "We have made our desire known through various channels but have not sensed, so

far, any reciprocal Saudi desire," he said.

Another Moscow official told the newsmen the Soviet Union was seeking to foster closer ties with Kuwait, particularly in the oil field.

The head of the Mideast department of the Soviet state commission for external economic relations, Peter Alkinov, said a July 7 meeting in Kuwait will aim at exploring prospects of boosting Kuwaiti-Soviet economic and commercial links.

**Message**

Meanwhile, HH the Amir of Kuwait sent a message yesterday to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Kuwait's Ambassador to Moscow Abdel Mohsen Al-Duaij handed the message to the head of the Middle East and Arab countries department at the Foreign Ministry, Vladimir Boliakov.

The contents of the message were not revealed but it was believed to be in reply to the Soviet leader's recent message to the Amir.

The Kuwaiti Ambassador discussed with Boliakov preparations for a visit by Kuwait's Health Minister to the Soviet Union next week and a visit to Kuwait next month by the chairman of the Soviet foreign economic relation committee, Constantine Katchuve.

/13046

CSO: 4400/226



## STRONG FEELINGS UNDERLIE EFFORT TO 'KUWAITIZE' POPULATION

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 29 Jun 86 p 4

[Article by Amir Abul Saud]

[Text]

KUWAIT's National Assembly yesterday approved the state economic and development plan.

During discussions on the plan, Deputy Dr Ahmed Al Khatib asked why the government gave licences for commercial and residential buildings while it was trying to strike a balance between citizens and expatriates by reducing the number of non-Kuwaitis in the country. He said the problem was how to reduce the non-Kuwaiti population.

#### Scholarships

Deputy Yousef Al Mikhliid criticised the policy of giving nationality. He asked how the country wanted to find a balance in population between citizens and expatriates when it failed to allow some Kuwaitis to take part in public elections. He also criticised the procedures for developing administrative staff, and asked how there could be development when the right man was not put in the right post. He said appointments in the public sector were made through influence.

Deputy Al Mikhliid asked how the administration could be Kuwaitised when the government stopped scholarships overseas.

He said that public spending was not guided and the budget deficit increased year by year.

He attacked the Finance Minister for closing down 23 companies and factories, and attacked the Education Minister for his policies for the university and higher education. He said that many Kuwaitis were unable to enter the university and higher institutes because of these policies.

Deputy Dr Ahmed Al Rabii called for development plans that served the majority of Kuwaitis and not the minority.

#### Traditions

He said the population problem was a political one, and the existence of many minorities in a small country such as Kuwait would affect its internal policies. He said the difference between Arab and foreign manpower in the country should be taken into consideration when dismissing employees.

Deputy Dr Al Rabii warned about the danger of Asian manpower, especially Koreans who were considered typical soldiers. These Asian workers are strange and had different traditions, culture and religion, and many crimes, such as those connected with narcotics, were committed by these foreigners.

#### Sensitive

He said Kuwait imported illiterate manpower instead of

experienced and qualified workers. He said many firms preferred to employ non-Kuwaitis because they were cheap, and suggested that Kuwaitis who employed foreigners should pay taxes to help defray the cost of public services used by these foreigners. He said modern technology should be used to replace foreign manpower.

Health and Planning Minister, Dr Al Awadi, said the government was concerned about finding a balance between the population of Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis by encouraging non-Kuwaitis to leave the country and compensating them. But this was a sensitive procedure, he added. Dr Al Awadi said the Kuwaiti economy was a free one, especially regarding the import of manpower.

#### Violations

He said it was painful to see that Kuwaitis were only 40 per cent of the population last year.

The state plan was then approved unanimously.

The Assembly then debated the final accounts of the Public Investment Authority for the 1984/85 fiscal year.

#### Committee

Deputy Sami Al Minayes said the Audit Bureau had 12 comments on the accounts and added



that the violations amounted to more than KD 70 million. The legal violation committed by the authority was withdrawing more than KD 1 billion from the future generations reserve. He said that more than KD 2.728 billion was taken from the public reserve to solve the Al Manakh crisis. He also criticised the authority for selling its shares in local establishments and banks.

Deputy Jassim Al Qatami called for setting up a special committee to investigate the violations.

The Assembly adjourned voting on the final accounts until the return of the Finance Minister to answer the comments of the Audit Bureau.

Deputies then debated the 1986-87 draft budget of the authority. They called on it to invest its money in projects that did not contradict the Islamic Sharia.

Deputy Jassem Al Aoun said the authority committed many violations, such as investing in liquor factories.

Other deputies demanded the staff of the authority be Kuwaitised, pointing out that only 40 percent were Kuwaitis. They stressed the importance of investing Kuwaiti money in Arab countries and of stopping investment in the West.

The draft budget was then approved.

The Assembly decided to hold its usual meeting on Tuesday and another meeting on Wednesday.

/13046

CSO: 4400/226

NEED FOR EXPATRIATE TECHNICIANS CONTINUES

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 1 Jul 86 p 3

[Text]

THE director general of Kuwait's Applied Education and Training Authority, Dr. Jasem Khalaf, said yesterday that Kuwait needs 34,000 technicians and craftsmen to meet the requirements of the current five-year plan.

Dr. Al-Khalaf told a news conference only 2,400 students graduated each year from the authority's institutes.

He said the government was keen to encourage more secondary school graduates into the institutes by offering material and moral incentives.

Dr. Al-Khalaf said graduates

of the institutes were now offered scholarships to continue their higher education abroad, noting that the authority was sponsoring 39 students enrolled in postgraduate programs.

On this year's admission policy, the director general said 4,500 students would be accepted at the authority's institutes this year, including 1,840 women.

He said femal students would now be allowed to enrol in course for chemical and physics laboratory technicians at the Kuwait Institute of Technology.

/13046

CSO: 4400/227

## MEANS PROPOSED TO BALANCE POPULATION

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 2 Jul 86 p 4

[Text]

ONE of the most important factors in Kuwait's five-year development plan up to 1990 is the move to balance the Kuwaiti and expatriate population.

Al Qabas newspaper said yesterday that this issue was being given priority in order to protect the internal and external security of the country and to preserve local traditions and culture.

**Incentive**

It proposed a number of ways of striking a balance in the population. One was to reduce the number of dependents of expatriates by encouraging foreign workers to send their families home by giving them special allowances.

Another was to encourage early marriage among citizens by giving loans to newly-wed Kuwaitis and social allowances for their children. One incentive towards larger families would be to give homes to Kuwaitis with large families and a rent allowance to those without government houses.

**Training**

The plan said that the expatriate population could be reduced by increasing the use of machines to replace foreign workers.

The plan called for stopping the import of non-professional expatriates, including maids and other servants, except in certain circumstances.

It said that a clear policy of

giving Kuwaiti nationality to experienced and qualified people would help balance the population. It suggested giving permanent residence to some expatriates, who could then be granted Kuwaiti nationality in the future.

The plan also called for training Kuwaitis and increasing their productivity to face future requirements.

It recommended treating the problem of illiteracy, increasing the standard of education and training, giving more care to Kuwaiti children, encouraging Kuwaiti women to work in suitable jobs, and encouraging citizens to work in industrial, agricultural, commercial and professional activities instead of depending on government jobs.

/13046

CSO: 4400/227

## BRIEFS

OIL TO SYRIA--NICOSIA, June 23 (AP): Kuwait last week supplied Syria with a supertanker cargo of crude oil to replace the disruption of oil supplies from Iran, the weekly Middle East Economic Survey reported today. Syria has also approached Saudi Arabia and other Arab states for oil-supply assistance while purchasing oil from the spot market, the oil review added. The Kuwaiti oil shipment was made in lieu of Kuwait's annual financial aid to Syria, MEES said. The development came in the wake of so far abortive mediation efforts by Jordan and Saudi Arabia to bring about a rapprochement between Iraq and Syria. Iran has been supplying Syria with cut-price oil to repay the support it receives from Damascus, particularly the closure of a trans-Syrian pipeline used by Iraq to export its oil through Mediterranean ports. [Text] [Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 24 Jun 86, p 4] /13046

SOCIAL AFFAIRS, LABOR MINISTRY SUSPENDS REDUNDANCIES--A source at Kuwait's Social Affairs and Labour Ministry said yesterday that the ministry had informed the Finance and Economy Ministry that it was suspending redundancies among its employees. He said the ministry was facing problems due to a shortage of staff in the social service department because of the dismissals. The ministry has dismissed 550 employees on special contracts. Meanwhile, the assistant undersecretary for administrative and financial affairs at the Education Ministry, Abdul Aziz Al Jarallah, said that 1,445 employees had been made redundant recently. He said the figure included 550 teachers, most working in the elementary stage and kindergartens. Al Jarallah told Al Watan newspaper that most of the dismissed teachers were inefficient. He said a meeting was held between the chairman of the Civil Service Commission, Abdul Aziz Al Zaben, and the ministry's acting undersecretary, Abdulmohsen Al Saeed, and other officials, regarding the first chapter of the ministry's budget in connection with technical posts, secondments and growth of the education centre. [Text] [Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 26-27 Jun 86 p 4] /13046

ECONOMIC DISCUSSION WITH HUNGARY, AUSTRIA--BUDAPEST, June 27 (Kuna): A top ranking delegation of Kuwaiti officials and businessmen arrived in Budapest yesterday on a visit to Hungary to hold talks with Hungarian leaders on bilateral economic relations. The delegation will also visit Austria arriving in Vienna on July 1 to hold business talks with the Austrian Chamber of Commerce and Industry officials on ways to promote commercial and economic relations between the two countries. Austrian President-Designate Dr Kurt

Waldheim will receive the delegation on July 2, as will the President-in-office, Dr Rudolf Kirchschlaeger. The Kuwaiti group is to meet with the heads of Austria's leading banking institutes, and will enter into talks with members of the federal government. [Text] [Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 28 Jun 86 p 4] /13046

CSO: 4400/226

## LEBANON

### NABIH BIRRI DISCUSSES SECTARIAN PROBLEMS

Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 20 Jun 86 p 16

[Interview with Nabih Birri by 'Assaf 'Abbud: "Nabih Birri Tells AL-ITTIHAD, 'We Are Entitled to Political Control of South Lebanon; I Admit That Sectarian Sentiments Do Exist in Beirut; Abu 'Ammar Has Been Able To Infiltrate Parties in Lebanon Including the Progressive Socialist Party; 350 of Amal's Members Were Injured in Recent Battles; It Is no Secret That Our Arms and Supplies Are Provided by Syria on All Levels';" date and place of interview not specified]

[Text] Conditions in Lebanon continue to hold the interest of Arab public opinion. The average citizen is still trying to find an explanation for the fighting, the alliances and the breakups that are taking place there and hurting national as well as pan-Arab interests, particularly within the ranks of anti-Israeli nationalists. Because complex interrelated events have been and are being experienced in Lebanon, and because these events are complicated further by propaganda and counter propaganda, we are trying to review all aspects of the facts with influential leaders on the scene. In this interview--an interview with Mr Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement--we review the background behind the events as well as current events. We are conducting this review from the point of view of the Amal Movement, which played an outstanding role in Lebanon and an outstanding role against the Israeli enemy in south Lebanon.

[Question] Are the battles you are fighting in the camps based on a military decision that stems from the political decision not to allow Palestinians to go back to the situation that existed before 1982? How then do you explain the continuation of these battles?

[Answer] It is important for me to explain what is meant by not going back to the situation that existed before 1982. It may be a commonly held opinion that Palestinians are exclusively being referred to when we talk about not going back to the situation that existed before 1982. Not going back to the situation that existed before 1982 is something that must be applied to all factions in Lebanon. It is directed to all factions in Lebanon including, of course, the Lebanese. And chief among those factions is the Amal Movement. What do we mean by not going back to the situation that existed before 1982 in the southern sector, for example? Lebanese or Palestinian party members could travel in south Lebanon brandishing Fatah's or Amal's slogans, and they could declare they were engaged in resistance activities against Israel. In fact, these people would



come and go in south Lebanon without becoming engaged in any fighting against Israel. The fact of the matter is that the principal objective of this situation was to find out how to usurp the people's rights and how to encroach upon them unilaterally or otherwise. The Amal Movement and Fatah as well as many other parties and fronts fell into this trap. So when we call for not going back to the situation that existed before 1982, we are talking about everyone. This statement is not at all directed exclusively against the Palestinians.

The Palestinians are our brothers and compatriots. What applies to the Lebanese people applies also to the Palestinian people. There are no distinctions between the Lebanese and the Palestinians. The only difference is that a Lebanese citizen carries a Lebanese identity card and a Palestinian may carry only a Palestinian identity card. An order which Lebanese citizens have to obey must also be obeyed by Palestinians. That is why we say there is no difference between Lebanese security and Palestinian security. That is why we say that the security of the camps is part and parcel of the security of the Lebanese people and of the national areas. This is what was agreed upon in the Palestinian working paper which was submitted by the Palestinian Rescue Front and approved by the Amal Movement and other national forces. There is no dispute about that since a siege of the camps is not what is required. By the same token, a siege of national areas by militiamen is also not required. Those militiamen were recently sent to the camps by Mr Yasir 'Arafat.

Let me say, for example, that complaints have been heard for some time about Amal Movement not permitting ambulances to go inside the camps to take the wounded out. Yesterday, approximately six cars went into the camps, and seven injured people were brought out during battles which lasted 20 days. Seven wounded people were brought out, but the complaints and the cries for saving the wounded and doing something about the tragic situation--which reminds one of Karbala'--did not stop. Seven wounded people were taken out. But let me say that as a result of these battles 350 people who are associated with the Amal Movement were injured, and they are in hospitals receiving treatment. Of course, we do not wish our fellow Palestinians to have as many casualties as the Lebanese people did, but the time has come to expose this falsehood.

If such a vociferous outcry is being made to preclude a strike against the Palestinian Resistance, then we support it. By the same token, however, there must not be a strike against Lebanon's National Resistance which turned out to be a source of pride for all Arabs without exception. It was the Lebanese National Resistance which cleared the way even for the Palestinian Resistance, enabling it to regain hope in its homeland and enabling it to regain its homeland and its dignity.

What is going on now is a very large conspiracy against the Lebanese National Resistance and the Palestinian National Resistance.

[Question] You talked about not going back to the situation that existed before 1982, particularly in the south. Accordingly, Amal would take over security in the south, and one group would be dominant and control the south in the name of the struggle. How would you explain that and account for it?

[Answer] The Amal Movement is entitled to political control over south Lebanon. It was, after all, the Amal Movement that liberated the land, and it was the



people of Amal who fought the battle. That is why political decisions must be made by Amal. This is something that has been agreed to. Immediately after the liberation and a few days after Israel's withdrawal a meeting was held in the office of Mr 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, and all the national forces attended that meeting. It was agreed that security for the Lebanese people there would be controlled by the main power in the south. That power is the only power which survived under Israeli occupation, and that power is manifested by the forces of the Amal Movement.

It is self-evident that we should be the ones making the political decisions. But it is unacceptable that the Amal Movement monopolize resistance activities against Israel. I want one Palestinian to tell me that the Amal Movement is preventing others from carrying out resistance activities.

[Question] A few Palestinian organizations are saying that this is not true. Accordingly, they are saying that Amal is preventing numerous operations in the south.

[Answer] An article in the working paper that was presented by the Palestine Rescue Front calls for the establishment of an operations room for resistance activities against Israel and a joint operations room for coordinating operations. Amal informed all fellow Palestinians and told them the name of its representative at this operations room. Amal told them that anyone who wanted to conduct operations against Israel should come to this operations room to coordinate with us so that we won't have chaos. But we cannot allow armed militiamen to walk the streets merely for propaganda purposes under the pretext of making preparations and carrying out operations against Israel. This is something that is well-known about the Palestinian and National Resistance.

There are now national forces and Palestinian forces carrying out operations. Those which are carried out by national forces are declared, [but those which are carried out by Palestinian forces are another matter]. Four individuals carried out an operation, and it was announced that as a result of their operations Israeli hostages were killed and four Palestinians lost their lives. A memorial service was held 1 week after the death of those Palestinians, whose pictures were distributed to newspapers, and Abu 'Ammar's Fatah declared responsibility for them. But we were dumbfounded when we found those four men walking in the streets of Tyre, and I notified Amal to have them arrested. We told them that we had been informed of their death. We contacted Abu 'Ammar's group and asked them to come so we could turn these men over to them. We oppose false announcements about operations that are not carried out and that the Lebanese people pay a price for. You know that Israel retaliates for every operation that is carried out in the border villages, and we are the ones who pay the price for this kind of display.

I recall how south Lebanon was occupied in 1981. With the help of some mediators Abu 'Ammar agreed to a cease-fire with Israel which lasted 9 months. During that period I said that South Lebanon was virtually occupied because Israel would use any operation carried out against it by anyone as an excuse to occupy South Lebanon. I said that Israel would even concoct an operation to occupy South Lebanon. Then there was the London operation and the attempt to assassinate the

Israeli ambassador there. And Israel used that as an excuse to attack south Lebanon.

I am saying that no one is allowed to make decisions for the people of south Lebanon, and that must be absolutely clear. But the people of south Lebanon are not at all willing to give up Palestine. Nor are they willing to give up the resistance. But it is real resistance that they are not willing to give up and not that which manifests itself in proclaiming slogans which can be exploited at the United Nations and the Arab League. South Lebanon is not a commodity. South Lebanon is an active force; it is actually the real force that has stood against Israel since 1942. This is not how Palestinians and Arabs should pay back south Lebanon.

There is then a common operations room for those who wish to fight Israel.

[Question] Based upon this and upon what you said about those who put up a real resistance and those who do not, why do you not allow the Salvation Front to take over security in the camps? Why not let Amal withdraw from the outskirts of the camps? You would gain; the Salvation Front would gain; and Yasir 'Arafat would lose.

[Answer] We did not prevent the Rescue Front or anyone else from going to the camps. I regret very much having to say that we see no big difference between the Salvation Front and 'Arafat's group. But we are still coordinating our efforts with our brothers in the Palestinian National Salvation Front, and we are still willing to forget the past. We are willing to turn over a new leaf, even with Mr Yasir 'Arafat, if he were to initiate some action to regain Palestine by liberating it rather than by exploiting certain issues including the Lebanese issue or the issue of south Lebanon. This is something that the people of Lebanon who paid dearly for this will not allow, particularly after Israel entered south Lebanon in 1982. Those people who claimed they want to fight a fierce battle with Israel have now left Lebanon and south Lebanon. Since 1982 Lebanon and south Lebanon have been left defenceless in the face of Israel's military machinery. When matters got hot, the guardsman was nowhere to be found. What was the purpose of all this passion then?

[Question] Sources of the Salvation Front say that Amal's attack on the camps impels them to take sides with with Abu 'Ammar and others "to defend our Palestinian people."

[Answer] Let me answer your question by quoting statements made by the Front stating unequivocally that the battles in the camps were caused by Yasir 'Arafat's group. It has been established in Beirut that Amal's leaders stopped delivering ammunition to their people for 6 days. Consequently, even the streets outside the camps were occupied.

I appreciate the political and emotional situation which our brothers in the Salvation Front are going through. We have to help them seize control of the decisions which have to do with security and politics in the camps. But they too have to help us; they have to shield us from the evils that are thrust upon us in the name of Palestinians. What happens to Yasir 'Arafat is of no concern to

the Amal Movement. This is a domestic Palestinian matter. [At any rate], we have to put up with some of the statements that are issued by the Palestinian Salvation Front. We understand the pressure that is applied to them to make them issue such statements. But they know the truth, and so do we.

[Question] You recently proposed that a Syrian military force be brought in to stop the fighting in the camps. Some saw that as a sign of weakness and an appeal to Syria for help. That is why Syria has been accused of actual involvement in the battles through Ghazi Kan'an. What do you have to say about that?

[Answer] There is an obvious contradiction in the accusation, in the argument you are setting forth and in the question. If Brig Gen Ghazi Kan'an were conducting operations with the Amal Movement, why would I ask for a Syrian security force to be brought in when I have one? If the Amal Movement wanted to surround the Palestinian camps and do away with the Palestinians, why would it want to have a security force separating the camps from Amal?

If we are strong, we will not be weak. The fact of the matter is that Brig Gen Ghazi Kan'an came to see me in my home in Beirut with Mr Walid Junblatt. They stayed with me for about 1 hour, during which Brig Gen Kan'an asked me to look into the possibility of the Salvation Front assuming responsibility for security in the camps until the fighting between the Amal Movement and the camps could be brought to an end.

I did not do anything about this, not because I did not want the Salvation Front to be in the camps, but because what I dread most in a combat atmosphere is a friend who becomes either someone who has to defend himself or an enemy. If that happens, we would be adding fuel to the fire in a certain atmosphere--the atmosphere of battle--and we would be forced to take into consideration matters that run counter to our beliefs. We and the Palestinian Salvation Front believe in one thing, but we fear that what we have in common could change during the battles. This 1-hour long visit between me and Ghazi Kan'an was publicized in the newspapers, and Yasir 'Arafat made a big deal out of it. He played it up in the media and politically to suggest that the purpose of the visit was to expand the framework so as to involve Syria in the second matter, as long as I was receiving weapons and ammunition from Syria, and that is true.

I do receive my weapons and supplies from Syria, and that is no secret. But I receive those weapons to defend myself against domination and against Israel. It is known that weapons are needed for operations which are carried out in south Lebanon. Of course I take these weapons, but I don't take them to fight the Palestinians. I use these weapons to defend myself, and that is my right. It is Syria's duty to help me defend myself, even against any attack that may come from anywhere. This has nothing to do with the movement's weakness. Are we weak because we do not wish to fight the Palestinians?

The other matter has to do with our request for a Syrian disengagement force because we and the Palestinians trust the Syrians. They are, therefore, candidates for serving as a disengagement force. But the Syrians did not approve of that because they thought their entry into Beirut would be construed as support for the Amal Movement against the Palestinians. The Syrians wish to resolve this matter through intense meetings which would coordinate activities between Amal and the Salvation Front.



[Question] Has an agreement sponsored by Syria been reached in meetings with the Salvation Front: Can this agreement serve as an alternative to what you proposed to resolve this matter?

[Answer] We are still engaged in continuous meetings, and [we hope] to reach an agreement in the next 2 days between all Muslim and national leaders to look into the subject of the camps, West Beirut and the national areas in general. We regard the security of the camps to be part of national security, and that subject has to be resolved.

[Question] You said that the greatest fear was that the war in the camps would spill over into West Beirut. You said that Abu 'Ammar would try to manipulate the role played by Sunnis in Beirut to create an upheaval. What is the solution then when the Sunnis are suffering from the Shi'ites in Beirut?

[Answer] I remember one of the coordination meetings I attended before 1982. That meeting was also attended by Abu 'Ammar who always insisted then that he was a Husayni Shi'ite. He used to tell me and Mr Muhsin Ibrahim that he was more of a Shi'ite than we were because he could trace his Shi'ism to Husayni. But now he has a different attitude. He is now defending the Sunnis. Let me say that it is painful to have leaders of national and Palestinian action sink to this level of fanning the fires of civil strife. We respect Sunni leaders, and we do not accept the notion that their actions are Sunni actions. In fact, those leaders insist that their actions are national actions. Amal concentrates on defending the rights of Muslims in general. This manipulation of sectarian sentiments is new in Lebanon. Not even the Palestinians need this sectarianism because that will not bring back Palestine. Such an approach is not a means to the liberation of Palestine. The road to liberation is the road of struggling and fighting against Israel. Sectarianism and accommodation will not liberate Palestine.

[Question] A few Sunnis in Beirut are speaking out angrily about the fact that Amal has usurped the Sunnis' role in Beirut. Do you expect there will be a clash between Amal and the Sunnis through Yasir 'Arafat's provocative actions?

[Answer] Let's concede that Yasir 'Arafat has been able to stir up hard feelings between Sunnis and Shi'ites. This was accomplished, of course, with the cooperation of Lebanese authorities. My question is this: what will Sunnis and Shi'ites fight about in Beirut? What is being called for here is a national role, not a Shi'ite or a Sunni role. These arguments that are being set forth are among the most important reasons for the existing situation in Lebanon.

Sectarianism is a snake that has wrapped itself around our hearts because we believed it would protect us. Instead, sectarianism is spreading its venom in our society. If Abu 'Ammar starts playing this game between Palestinians and Lebanese, he will have no more ground to stand on when he calls for the liberation of Palestine because there will be an Israeli national homeland based on religion, and that will justify the establishment of a Maronite state and other states. That will happen if the Palestinian Revolution sets forth such arguments. Abu 'Ammar wants to return to Lebanon, and he wants to become involved in Lebanese decisions so he could have something to bargain with in the Amman Agreement or other agreements.

The Palestinians are our brothers, but they too must feel that we are their brothers, and brothers must be treated equally. The fact that Palestinians are my brothers does not mean that they rule Lebanon and that they govern the Lebanese in the interests of the Palestinian cause.

[Question] What do you expect will happen in the camps as a result of the mediation effort by 'Ali Basharti, Iran's deputy minister of foreign affairs?

[Answer] We support every effort that is being made to stop the drain and to lift the injustice which envelops the vicinity of the south, the people who live there and the national resistance as well. We support anything that can be done to stop the damage that is affecting our Palestinian brothers. What affects them affects us also. Any initiative that is taken has our blessings, and we've stated that we were willing to go along with any initiative. A dialogue did take place in the Iranian Embassy, and we did comply with the cease fire. There was also a mediation effort by the Algerian Embassy and a delegation went to Beirut, and we complied with the cease fire. Last Thursday we unilaterally called for a cease fire because of the holidays. What matters is that the snipers in the camps stop their activities. We do not want this sniper activity to provoke a response from Beirut, and we want to give Iranian mediation a chance to succeed.

[Question] What is the value of the alliance with Walid Junblatt when rockets are being fired from al-Jabal on al-Dahiyah, and there is a battle every day with that ally? What is your explanation for that?

[Answer] The alliance with the Progressive Party is a strategic alliance. Had it not been for this alliance, Lebanon would not have been able to get rid of the Israeli age. We must not forget that it was the solidarity between al-Jabal and al-Dahiyah that brought about this victory. Phalangist dominance would not have been undone without this alliance.

Ever since his return to Beirut, Abu 'Ammar has undoubtedly been able to infiltrate numerous parties in Lebanon, and it is no secret that he did get to some of the leaders of the Progressive Socialist Party. Nor is it unlikely that the Amal Movement too will be infiltrated. What is required as a result of this infiltration is a stronger alliance with the Progressive Party to prevent it.

There were numerous battles between us and the socialists, and this is something that happens between allies. But I am certain that these battles were not provoked by a decision that either Walid Junblatt or Nabih Birri made. They were rather the result of actions by intelligence operatives who had infiltrated our organizations as a result of wrong decisions. This does not constitute a break in our relationship, but it is rather a realignment of our friendship.

[Question] There are news reports which state that you will soon be playing a role in bringing about the release of the hostages in Lebanon. It is being reported that you are talking with France about this matter.

[Answer] The Amal Movement opposes the kidnapping of French, American and British citizens, and it has condemned the kidnapping of any person. But some people have tried to accuse Amal of doing that. Those people tried to contain

something called Shi'ite terrorism to deal a blow to the resistance. But what was required, however, was a blow to the Amal Movement without which Lebanon would have been partitioned. Without Amal we would have had an agreement worse than the 1943 agreement. Kidnapping operations are an embarrassment to Amal, [and they are designed to] foil it in West Beirut. The Amal Movement has succeeded in its attempts to secure the release of a number of foreigners who were kidnapped.

We also helped resolve the matter of the hijacked American airplane.

Regarding the French hostages, I have tried to secure their release, and I'm still trying. We are doing everything we can to secure their release.

[Question] Do you expect them to be released soon?

[Answer] I don't expect anything!

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CSO: 4404/392

HUBAYQAH QUESTIONED ABOUT ROLE IN FACTIONAL STRIFE

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 20 Jun 86 pp 16, 19-20

[Interview with Eli Hubayqah by Louis Faris: "Eli Hubayqah Tells AL-HAWADITH: 'A Political Solution Is Impossible and a Military Resolution Is Inevitable';" 26 May, in Damascus]

[Text] Eli Hubayqah returned to Damascus from Paris Sunday evening, the 25th of May.

AL-HAWADITH met him that night when he went to the suite of Mr 'Asim Qansuwah, who was in Damascus that night. When AL-HAWADITH asked him if he had something to say about the future of a solution in Lebanon, about his own role in that solution and about Syria's, France's and Bkirki's roles, he replied, "Yes, I do have something to say. I've been silent for a long time, and I will be delighted to say what I have to say on the pages of AL-HAWADITH."

On the afternoon of the following day, that is, Monday, Mr Eli Hubayqah came to the offices of AL-HAWADITH in Damascus where the following interview took place.

[Question] It's been more than 4 and a half months since the 15 January coup. Where are you now, and where are you located? What are your plans, and what resources do you have?

[Answer] It's been a long time since January 15. What happened on January 15 made us go back and review our calculations. It made us take a new look at the issue; it made us look at it from a different perspective. When we, or rather, when I personally took over as president of the Executive Authority, the Lebanese forces, as an institution, was moving into a new direction and it was following a new course that differed from that which had been adopted by leaders, especially Christian leaders. That was the case from the time the war started until this settlement. At that time we looked at the issue: we analyzed the situation we were in, and we made our choice. After these 4 months that we've spent since January 15, we are reconsidering the same issue, and we are trying to re-analyze everything we had analyzed before so that we can go on with what we had started.

Our conviction about the course we pursued on May 9 is becoming stronger. We strongly believe that a battle must be fought to establish this principle or



doctrine of bringing about peace in the country. We believe we must win this battle so that Lebanon can get out of its crisis, survive, and go back to being the country we have all been hoping for.

It is becoming increasingly clearer to us today that our leaders for 11 years have been lying to us and to the people. They have been lying for 11 years. It is a lie of major proportions that has been leading this country into destruction. It is the special interests that are managing the politics and positions of political officials. It is these interests that are not interested in ending the war. It is those interests that will have to be taken into account when and if the war is brought to an end or when the talks that will end the war are held, but it will not be the country's interests or the Lebanese people's interests that will be taken into account.

Today, we are still determined to go on with what we started then, and we are certain that this is the right way to go. I am not just talking about the tripartite agreement that took place, nor am I talking about the contacts that were made. I am rather talking about the principle and the details of the actual subsequent steps which were taken to get the country out of the hole it is in. I am talking about a principle that our leaders are always talking about. But our leaders are talking about that principle in an erroneous manner, and in some instances, in a false manner. This principle is that no group in Lebanon is trying to achieve a military victory over another group. It is believed, however, that Lebanon is one nation with several social classes, rather than several sects. These social classes are facing a difficulty just as all parts of the world face class or social problems for which solutions are needed. Most of these problems or their root causes manifest themselves in the social problems of one sect. This is because the rest of the people have privileges that are attributable to their geographical location. They have the privilege of having vital facilities. But the Shi'ites in Lebanon are the most socially wronged sect in the country because Shi'ites can be found in densely populated areas in Lebanon which are isolated from other areas. Therefore, we believe that reforms have to be made either in the area of political representation for this class of people--and I am not saying this sect--or in the area of social problems so that their condition can be improved. We cannot have people living in this country and enjoying all the privileges while others have no privileges whatsoever.

The revolution or war which started in 1975 between the Lebanese and Palestinians could have started before that date or after that date for another reason: the social reason. The social causes [of such unrest] have to be dealt with. I think that with the conviction we acquired and applied to the tripartite agreement, we've set down several laws and principles that we can use to rectify social and political conditions for all groups in Lebanon. Thus, every Lebanese citizen, regardless of his sect, wealth, poverty, education, or the lack thereof, would feel that he was living in a country which will repay him if he makes a sacrifice for it. That citizen would no longer feel he was living in a country where he will be wronged no matter what he does. Such a feeling would eventually make him turn to foreign countries or powers who would give him his rights. It would be better for the Lebanese to give their fellow citizens their rights. That would be better than having a foreign country come along and give that Lebanese citizen his rights. That is the logic that has been guiding us.

Furthermore, we have become convinced that Lebanon is defined by its Arab surroundings. We are the people who can say the most about this because our experience in that matter has been very strong and because we lived in Lebanon and outside its borders. We know what we're talking about. This is not just a lot of hot air; we did in fact experience life on both sides of the border. There may be many people in East Beirut who have had only one experience because of the war, and it would be best for those people to listen to what we have to say because we've had both experiences, and we know these experiences quite well. Lebanon belongs to a group of nations, and denying that would be a fatal mistake. For 11 years Christians have been considering themselves people looking for an identity. They have also been trying to find Lebanon's identity: one time they think Lebanon ought to have a western identity and become attached to Europe, and another time they wish to give it a Christian identity. This process has been complicating matters. But experience has shown that Lebanon has to be recognized once and for all as an Arab country that is affiliated with this Arab community. Accordingly, it has a role in this community's struggle, and it has a role in its regional and domestic problems as well.

When you believe that Lebanon is affiliated with Arab countries, you can stand on firm ground. Whenever the wind blows on this area, it blows on Lebanon; whenever the sun shines on the area, it shines on Lebanon; and whenever it rains in the area, it rains in Lebanon too. This idea is valid. In 1973 war broke out between the Arabs and Israel, but this major war ended the same year. Then another war broke out in 1982. I would like to jog the Lebanese people's memory and tell them that the war in Lebanon has continued from 1973 to 1986 because Lebanon, or a few Lebanese citizens, decided that Lebanon had nothing to do with the Arab world. Consequently, they wanted to have nothing to do with the Arab world's conflict. They tried to take themselves out of the game, but they got involved in a smaller and a more confining game: the game of small alliances. Instead of becoming involved in the larger conflict and approaching the main solution to that conflict, they became involved in a narrow conflict, and they did not know how to get themselves out of it.

We had to restore Lebanon to its normal and proper position. If there is war, we would all have to fight together; if there is peace or talks, we would all enjoy the blessings of the peace or the talks; and if there is an attack, all of us as an Arab community would become involved.

We share the same destiny. We should not unilaterally say that we are not part of this world which surrounds us. Accordingly, we should not say that we will play our own game, tear ourselves away and become lost between the west and the south. It was on the basis of that principle that we introduced into the tripartite agreement clear and unequivocal articles about Lebanon's affiliation and its position on the regional conflict in the Middle East, on the Arab cause and on Israel.

Questions were asked in the eastern district, and I was asked, "What are you doing? Are you trying to get us out of a war with Syria so you can get us involved in a war with Israel?" My answer was that first of all this image had to be clarified. We are not at war with Syria. Furthermore, we in Lebanon do not know any more with whom we are fighting. We have turned into fragmented groups

of people who are fighting but who don't know whom they are fighting. Consequently, if they were to reach a solution, they would not know the reasons for which the war broke out, nor would they know what to do to bring the war to an end. Therefore, I am not getting Lebanon out of a war with Syria to hurl it into a war with Israel. I am restoring Lebanon to its normal position. If we want to fight, we will fight: if we lose, we lose with the entire Arab community; and if we win, we win with the entire community. The experience of the 1982 war was the greatest example of that. The fact that we remained neutral in all the wars that broke out since 1967 did not prevent the Israeli army from entering Lebanon in 1982. Israel seized land and stayed in Lebanon. Therefore, it would be better for us to assume that position and adhere to it. This is something I have believed in and worked for. We came out with the tripartite agreement. I believe I have the honor of being one of the first persons to come up with these articles for the tripartite agreement. I did that before others because this is something I am convinced of. I am the one who knows better than other Lebanese citizens the damage that could result from Lebanon moving far away from its normal position. When we were neutral we were far away from our normal position.

We have been facing several problems since January 15, and several questions have again presented themselves to us and to the community of which we are a part. Among these questions are: Was what we did the right thing to do? Would it be useful to go on with the conflict? Let me say that after the experience I had for 4 months, after I came to know a Lebanon I do not know, and after I came to Syria, which I did not know, I believe that the principles we believed in and the steps we took are proper steps.

Regarding my role in the next stage I cannot follow through with the advice that some people from the eastern district gave me. They advised me to stay away from Syria. That is something I cannot do. I cannot stay away from people I lived with for 11 years, people I was with in the refugee camps. I saw many of my comrades-in-arms who fought battles die. I cannot leave those people, nor can I take my anger out on them and tell them, "You asked for this, and you had it coming. I was right."

I will continue the struggle I started to restore justice, and I will continue to seek justice.

I am restricted in this struggle, and my role in it is limited. Even if there were to be compulsory operations, these principles must be applied and there must be no mistakes. We must not repeat the mistakes we made in the past. We made several mistakes in the past, and we must not repeat them. The principles we laid down are the ones that must be applied and no others. Excuses such as this person's weakness or the breakup of that military group are not good enough. Therefore, what worked in the past will no longer work now. Today, there are stronger groups that can set down stronger conditions. These conditions or the agreement we achieved in the tripartite agreement are principles for Lebanon's survival and not conditions enabling one group to gain victory over another. And whether or not this or the other group wins a victory, Lebanon's survival demands that these principles prevail. Otherwise, we will go back to the war which could break out for a few more years when one of the groups regains its strength.



[Question] You are then in the process of resuming your conflict or your struggle, but you are not in the process of withdrawing from it or giving it up. Isn't that right?

[Answer] I am most certainly not withdrawing from the situation that I and a large number of Lebanese citizens created. Those Lebanese citizens, particularly Christians, are still in the eastern district. They are not being heard from now because of what they are going through. But I will go on. This is something I started 11 years ago, and I don't have the right to abandon it now. Nor do I have the right to turn my back on it and walk away somewhere where I could wait until the issue is settled before coming back.

[Question] There have been many rumors recently, and they have been persistent. I believe these rumors say that you will have the cooperation of this or the other military ally and that you will return by military force. What do you think about these rumors?

[Answer] First of all, I do not wish to talk at length about an ally or a non-ally because there are more allies than there are enemies. It is a fact that I have not met enemies, and I do not think there is a rationale for hostility on this side. I found people saying that reform was all they wanted. "All we want is a role in this country."

[Question] How can you go back to al-Ashrafiyah, for example, without a military clash when Ja'ja' is still there?

[Answer] We may indeed have a clash with him. But I am talking now about the principle; I'm not talking about the particulars. I am talking about the principle of a group in Lebanon made up of all the sects that represent the traditional way of thinking. This way of thinking states that what is mine is mine and what is yours is yours. You take what is yours and give me what is mine. [According to this way of thinking] Lebanon is a farm: everyone gets something out of that farm, but the deprived continue to be deprived. This farm must benefit a few people, but the rest must not receive any benefits from it.

This traditional way of thinking must be abolished. Today, there is a group of Lebanese citizens who think along those lines, but we can no longer accept that. Lebanon's direction must be changed, and Lebanon must become a country in every sense of the word. Lebanon must become a country in which all people live as equals without any discrimination. Then there is a second group, which is the opposing group, and that group says, "No, this is not right. The French gave us the privileges that we gained and that we must preserve. We will not give anybody anything, and we do not give a damn about what you do. We have red lines and green lines..." and so on.

The conflict today is between these two large groups and not between Christians and Muslims. It is not between the Lebanese and the Syrians, nor is it between Shi'ites and Maronites. The battle is between those people who subscribe to these two schools of thought. I subscribe to the school of thought which says that Lebanon is not a farm. Lebanon is a homeland, a country. Lebanon must know what its people need, and the legacy that the French left behind must be corrected. This French legacy was not divinely inspired and therefore it can be amended. In fact, as the ages and days go by we have to find something better.

As one who subscribes to that school of thought I will fight, and I will assume positions that will allow this school of thought to gain the upperhand.

[Question] What is new in the case of the rumors that are being heard about a military resolution and about clashes and problems and so on?

[Answer] There is something quite logical and normal. Is it possible to achieve a decisive outcome in Lebanon with a political solution? I think that since January 15 everything that could lead to a political solution has been attempted. If you want my opinion, I think that political methods cannot solve anything, particularly with a group which is unwilling to talk about political methods. How can one resolve an issue with a person who says, "What I have is mine, and I do not wish to give you anything?" They are telling us, "Go and look for your demands elsewhere."

[Question] What do you think about the Christian solution which is being proposed at the present time?

[Answer] That plan could work if Jesus Christ were to come down from the heavens, work a miracle and move Lebanon from its location and place it in Switzerland. These people are asking for Lebanon to be neutral, and this means that the Israeli army, the Syrian army and the Palestinian army must get out of Lebanon. It means that Lebanese parties must coexist and must do so without weapons. It means that parties are not to have any weapons. It means that Lebanon would have a government and an army. Only then can the state say, "We are a neutral country, and we do not wish to become involved in alliances and conflicts." But there are those in Lebanon who are trying to rally everyone in Lebanon to fight and settle accounts.

[Question] What exactly do you mean by that?

[Answer] The same people who brought Lebanon to the situation it is in met to devise a new plan. Independent Maronite representatives submitted a proposal--I believe that proposal was made by Representative Butrus Harb because he had talked with me previously about it--to apply in Lebanon the system that is applied in Switzerland. We are always trying to imitate the West in everything we do. Those people said that the presidency could be rotated. [Interviewer's remark: Speaking] sarcastically, [Hubayqah said] I wonder how many militias independent Maronite representatives have to enable them to force their proposal on the country? Of course they have no militias, and therefore, no one will respond to their proposal. However, when Camille Sham'un has something to say, what he says is approved so as not to offend him. In other words, this is how he gets his support: "You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours; and that is how things get done."

Independent Maronite representatives came out with this proposal because they hoped to come out with something that would please them and please the West. When asked what their plan was, they would reply, "This is it." But did they think about the application of such a plan in Lebanon? Did they consider whether or not the application of such a plan was possible? Did they think about whether or not it would solve the crisis? Not at all. It makes no difference to them.



They developed the plan in 4 days only, and what was important to them was the fact that they came out with a plan. But whether or not that plan would solve the crisis did not matter. The present Christian leaders who ruled in the past are the ones who are sitting now on top of the heap, and they think they can keep the country going by will power, by declaring that this is what they think and by declaring that they would not yield.

The difference between us and them is that we tried to see the problem as it was set forth by those who set it forth. We don't say this is what we Christians think: if you don't like what we are proposing, you establish your state, and we will establish ours.

We think that Lebanon is more important than this person's or the other person's state. That is why we looked into the problem and dealt with it as a problem. They, however, did not look into the matter, nor did they exert themselves. Instead, they considered it someone else's problem, and they thought someone else had to come up with a solution for it.

This was the argument we set forth, and people started dealing with it. It is a fact that it is not the Christians who are calling for reforms because they have everything. Those who are calling for reforms are those people who have no privileges. And it is normal for them to rebel when none of their demands is granted. All the nations of the world, like France and Algeria, demanded rights and reform at some point in their history, and when they did not get what they were asking for, revolutions broke out. We are not a nation of usurpers; we are genuine Lebanese citizens. The difference between us and others, or what gives us a different image from others, is our sect, and that should not become grounds for discriminating against us in our homeland. We go to church; they go to a mosque. This is something between us and our God. Here on earth, however, let us look at the class problem, not the sectarian problem.

I believe that the Christian plan will not create any more devastation than it has already because it is not realistic, and it does not treat matters in depth. It is not a vital plan, and it will not survive.

[Question] What possibilities does Eli Hubayqah have?

[Answer] In what way?

[Question] I mean what are the possibilities that you will go on struggling or that you will go back or that you will even resume political activity?

[Answer] My dear man, the possibilities are there, but we are facing two choices: Do we fight a battle and regain our position? Why would we do that? Do we continue to remain involved in the Lebanese conflict? Every living leader scores a victory over another living leader or scores a victory in a guerilla war. If something military is to happen, it should come about in the context of a national, comprehensive solution. It should not be independent of that solution. What is going on now is a process of putting together a national, comprehensive solution so that even if there were sacrifices to be made, these sacrifices would be the price for a national solution and not for the victory of one leader or the defeat of another.

We still have our political and our military capabilities, and we can put those resources and capabilities to work. I've established an infrastructure that no one can remove. And no one believes that this infrastructure can be removed. Nevertheless, we are not using those capabilities because we do not want a guerilla war in which the leader of one gang of bullies would score a victory over the leader of another gang of bullies. There is a national solution, and when that solution comes, there will be no more red lines or blue lines. That is why when we make a sacrifice in such a case, that sacrifice will have been worthwhile.

[Question] Are you in Syria as a political refugee, as it's being said, or is your status there something similar to that?

[Answer] A political refugee?

[Question] Yes, that is what has been said.

[Answer] Refugee from where? From Lebanon? First of all the Lebanon that rejected me, or rather, the area in Lebanon that rejected me and that I do not wish to return to by means of a political battle is one fifth or less of Lebanon. Therefore, I do not have to be in Syria as a political refugee. I can live anywhere in the remaining four-fifths of Lebanon without any problems. However, my presence in Syria stems from my conviction that I can play a major role there, either to relieve the burden which these people are carrying, or to keep tabs on the national solution which is being formulated and which will take its course.

Therefore, I am not a political refugee. When I want to go back to Lebanon, I can go back to the remaining four-fifths of Lebanon.

[Question] Who do you think is behind the explosions which are occurring in the Eastern District?

[Answer] We've been accused of responsibility for these explosions, but I don't know if public opinion is aware that we've had more losses and suffered more injuries from these explosions than they've had, particularly in those explosions that infringed upon military positions.

But I have no real idea about who might be behind the explosions that infringed upon residential areas. I believe that those who plan such explosions have become major criminals. The list of criminals in Lebanon is very long, and we no longer know where to look because they are all equally malicious and criminal.

[Question] What about the artillery fire that is repeated on a daily basis?

[Answer] This is the logic of war. This is the logic that we tried to replace with the dialogue we managed to start. But that dialogue was destroyed on January 15. Today, the people are paying the price for the breakup of that dialogue. Our most important achievement in the tripartite agreement was that of replacing gunfire with talks around a table. Instead of shooting at each other with guns, we were able to have political talks, and after a great deal of effort other parties agreed to join us in this process. I recall that there was

a period when there was a cease fire everywhere. People did not even fire their weapons at weddings. But when what happened on January 15 did happen, the logic that prevailed before, that is, the logic of using bullets and guns to deal with problems, returned.

[Question] President Hafiz al-Asad stated recently that he accepted the amendments to the agreement you signed with other parties. What is your interpretation of President al-Asad's statement?

[Answer] First of all, there is nothing new in President al-Asad's statement. President al-Asad had asserted that that agreement was not divinely inspired and that it was nothing more than a document which its signatories had achieved by constitutional means. If the spirit of that document is maintained, making a few changes in it would be all right. President al-Asad had notified al-Shaykh Amin of that position. I believe that this was clear to Amin al-Jumayyil in the last meeting between him and President al-Asad. We are not opposed to a few changes in this agreement if these changes are called for by all and if they are achieved by democratic methods in Lebanon's parliament so that the agreement may be ratified as a comprehensive national charter. This is not a new position. Our entire group is aware of it. I personally notified Bkirki of this position, and there are no Christian political officials who are not aware of it. This is the position that President al-Asad had assumed since the onset of the investigation into the subject of the agreement.

The Christian Plan Is Old, Traditional and Incompatible with the Causes of the Predicament!

[Question] How would you evaluate your relationship with Bkirki after the election of the new patriarch?

[Answer] You know that the geographical relationship has been broken. I am afraid to call him because they might detain him. Whenever I call anyone on the telephone, that person is detained. That is why I prefer not to talk to him on the telephone. I sent him a telegram congratulating him, and that telegram contained a proposal about Bkirki's role and the patriarch's role in particular. I cannot define my position as far as Bkirki is concerned. But as a Maronite, that position means one thing, and as a man who is involved in politics, it means another. I cannot blend the two positions together. But I am certain that Bkirki is in a positive position to solve the Lebanese crisis if [the crisis] assumes its role in that field. So far, however, I see no major action being taken concerning Bkirki stirring matters. All that I see are attempts made by a few criminals to take away from Bkirki the authority to speak on behalf of Christians. I pray God that he inspire the patriarch not to fall into the trap in which no other patriarch before him fell. Those people know nothing but their own personal interests.

[Question] What was your reaction to the news about the meeting between President al-Jumayyil and Abu Iyad?

[Answer] I used to work in intelligence, and to me such contacts are not new. They are old, and al-Jumayyil's relationship with the Palestinians and particularly with Abu 'Ammar's leaders is an old one. That relationship has been an

ongoing relationship, and it has never been suspended. I have information about relations and very important communications between the two parties.

But today, Amin al-Jumayyil is looking at this relationship from the perspective of the notion that my enemy's enemy is my friend. He also thinks that coming to terms with Abu 'Ammar would help him undermine Nabih Barri or deal a blow to him. He also thinks that an arrangement with Abu 'Ammar could be used as a trump card against Syria. These are among the mistakes that Amin al-Jumayyil made. He did not approach Lebanese facts in a positive manner. His approach to them was rather colored by his personal animosities. All his alliances and animosities have always been based on his personal position. I know that Amin al-Jumayyil did meet with Abu Iyad. Not only that, but I also assert positively that he received weapons and equipment from an Arab country. I do know that the Lebanese forces set a condition for receiving these weapons: the same amount of equipment and ammunition was to be delivered to the Palestinians in the camps. I also swear that these weapons were distributed among the two parties. Amin al-Jumayyil not only meets with the Palestinians, but he also backs them up with materiel. I believe that he forgot how many people lost their lives in Tall al-Za'tar leading to what happened there. I also believe that he forgot about the ruin and destruction that befell us from Abu 'Ammar and his reckless policy in Lebanon. That is why I was not surprised because what happened is customary with al-Jumayyil.

[Question] Do you think that the president will be able to serve his entire term?

[Answer] I wish Lebanon success. I wish that Lebanon can get rid of its predicament as soon as possible. Since this is what I wish for Lebanon, I also wish that Lebanon can get rid of him as soon as possible.

[Question] What was your reaction to Jacques Chirac's recent statements about the Lebanese settlement and the tripartite agreement?

[Answer] I believe that there is now an awareness about the Lebanese question in the West and particularly in France. Chirac's statement is an important and a positive statement whose purpose is to find solutions to the question without having the Lebanese people sacrificing for it. It is a statement that would enable the Lebanese people get rid of their predicament. I was not too surprised, however, by the negative attitudes toward Chirac's statement which were expressed by a few Christian leaders in the Eastern District, including Camille Sham'un and Samir Ja'ja'. For those people, a person has to think the way they do to be a Christian, and the West must also think the way they do to be western. Otherwise, it is an Arabized West.

What Chirac said constitutes an important initial step indicating that the rapprochement between Europe and Syria could create movement in the question at a later date, and that could finalize the peace and security process in Lebanon. If that is not the case, how can France be anti-Syria and help create forward motion in the Lebanese problem? Syria has no other friend that can help Lebanon but France. If we were to look at this logical proposal, which for the West is a novel approach in dealing with Syria, we would find it quite advantageous for the Lebanese situation because hostility breeds nothing but hostility. Besides,



how can we rely on France when France itself wants someone to help it get rid of its problems? That is why I believe that the closer the West gets to Syria and the better its relations with Syria become, the greater the opportunities for success in Lebanon. This is because differences will no longer be great and any regional and international rapprochement will help Lebanon solve its predicament, particularly since there are trends in Lebanon which believe in dividing Lebanon into small states and other ideas like that. You see now that even Europe is trying to get closer to Syria and to give it what it is entitled to in the Middle East and in Lebanon. Even Europe is trying to maintain the momentum of solving the crisis in Lebanon. The Europeans are still trying to stay away from dividing Lebanon into small states. God willing, the rest of Europe will follow Chirac's lead and discover the facts that he discovered as far as Lebanon is concerned. God willing, the rest of Europe will discover that the course we are pursuing is the proper course.

[Question] Are there political communications between you and France?

[Answer] I cannot say that there are political communications between me and the French government because that government is still new in office. But there are very friendly relations between us and a few French political figures who are in power today and who have a role in Lebanon. But we do not want to turn too much to foreign countries to find a solution. We are in a country that can resolve this issue. Every new supporter of our political course and our political rationale from abroad, and particularly from the West--that is, everyone who supports our adopted course of accepting Syria's help in settling matters--is a new form of support to be added to the support we previously received to help us resolve the issue more quickly.

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CSO: 4404/392



NATIONAL RESISTANCE, LAHD FORCES CLASH

Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 20 Jun 86 p 4

[Article by Darid Kaburah: "Resistance, Lahd Forces Clash along al-Rihan-al-'Ayshiyah Front"]

[Text] The border strip--Members of Lebanon's National Resistance forces shelled the village of al-'Ayshiyah with artillery and rockets before noon yesterday. Rockets fell in the area around the village and in the area near the barracks of the army of South Lebanon. There were no injuries.

Marun Nasr, the new commander of al-'Ayshiyah Battalion who succeeded his brother, Nabil Nasr, to that post after the latter was killed with four companions in Kafr Rumman, threatened that retaliation would be violent every time his positions and his village become the targets of shelling. Marun Nasr declared that retaliation would be different this time and that it would put an end to what he said were provocations and affronts.

Fighting broke out last night on al-Rihan-al-'Ayshiyah front during clashes that took place between the positions of the army of South Lebanon and those of the National Resistance in al-Tuffah district. Sounds of explosives and guns could be heard until a late hour of the night.

Flare bombs lit up the skies in the area all the way to al-Litani River and the al-Dalafah-al-Sarirah Sector.

In the central sector the southern army's position in Yatir was subjected to an armed attack, but there were no injuries. Afterwards, units of the army of South Lebanon were deployed. They turned the area upside down looking for armed men.

In Jabal 'Amil the ongoing communications and talks about the return of Kunin's refugees did not produce any positive results because Kunin officials declined to meet and talk with influential officials inside the security zone.

Residents of Bint Jubayl said yesterday that a prominent military organization in the south had arrested al-Sayyid Ibrahim, who is heading the talks with the army of South Lebanon and with the Israelis to bring back the residents of Bayt Yahun who had also left their homes after Israel's invasion of areas north of the security line in the Bayt Yahun-Tibnin sector months ago.

The Israelis had threatened to blow up the houses that are located on both sides of the street in Bayt Yahun unless their owners returned and took up residence in them. The Israelis had then requested lists containing the names of Bayt Yahun residents so they can determine who would be included in the decree that would allow some of them to return and keep others out of the area.

In Bint Jubayl approximately 60 persons joined the forces guarding the supporters of the army of south Lebanon. These forces guard the town and prevent disturbances; they also carry out military operations in the town. The army of South Lebanon furnished those men with weapons and machines so they can go out on patrols day and night.

#### A Thorough Search Expedition

In the eastern sector an armed Israeli group carrying individual weapons and communications equipment advanced toward Huruf al-Balanah between 'Ayn Qinya and Maymas. The group, which had started out from an Israeli position in Talah Zaghlah, conducted a thorough search through the forests and vineyards there till noon. The group then laid a trap and returned to base.

Israeli forces had prohibited traffic on this dirt road which links the security zone with the Maymas-al-Kafir sector. They warned all those traveling on foot on this road that they risked being fired upon.

#### Israeli Alert

Israeli troops in the eastern sector conducted extensive replacement operations which included the tank corps. They brought in additional equipment and troops, and they declared a state of alert yesterday under the pretext that the Syrian army had advanced to (Mashqarah) to break up the dispute between the nationalists and Hizballah. Israeli half-tracks fanned out along the inter-sections on the Hasbayya-al-Biqah' front, and Israeli soldiers manned the barricades of the army of South Lebanon while Israeli airplanes flew over Wadi al-Taym and al-Biqah' to find out about movements. They conducted mock air raids, particularly in the Rashayya-western al-Biqah' sector.

The army of South Lebanon had stopped several persons from the area at the gate in 'Ayn 'Alil, north of Hasbayya. The army of South Lebanon had discovered bombs, explosives and booby-trapped fountain pens in a suitcase that belonged to a passenger. After these people were questioned, they were released, but Anwar Shuruq from Hasbayya was kept in custody for further questioning about the conditions under which the bombs had been placed in his suitcase.

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CSO: 4404/392

BRIEFS

PRIME MINISTER URGES UNITY--In its latest issue, AL-HAWADITH magazine has published an interview with brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the standing committee. He affirmed that the restoration of Yemeni unity is one of the loftiest aspirations of the Yemeni people, that Islam is the religion of the state, and that Islamic law should be the source of legislation for the unity state. The brother prime minister and member of the standing committee added that unity between the two parts of the homeland will be a source of prosperity, peace, and stability, not only at the regional level but also at the Arab and international levels. The brother prime minister pointed out that our foreign relations emerge from the grounds and principles specified by the objectives of the immortal 26 September revolution and confirmed by the national charter. He said that these relations are based on cooperation with all countries. He stated: On this basis, we are establishing good relations with the Soviet Union while at the same time maintaining good relations with the United States. /Text/ /Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Jul 86 GF/ 12228

CSO: 4400/224

## AFGHANISTAN

### THEOLOGIANS VISIT IRAN, HEAR KHAMENE'I ADDRESS

LD012005 Tehran IRNA in English 2002 GMT 1 Jul

[Text] Tehran, 1 July IRNA--President 'ali Khamene'i said here Monday that Iran shares common historical, political, cultural and religious links with Afghanistan and therefore 'could remain indifferent' about the fate of that country.

The president told a group of visiting Sunni and Shi'a Afghan theologians here that Iran supports the righteous struggle of the oppressed Afghan people against their oppressor. He said no country in the world has confronted the Afghan issue as clearly and decisively as the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"We have repeatedly announced in international circles that the whole Afghan nation, not certain groups, is fighting the Soviet-installed regime in Afghanistan," Khamene'i said.

Khamene'i furthermore lauded the Afghan nation as progressive and revolutionary and said those who call them terrorists are committing treason against their holy fight. Iran, Khamene'i said, is committed to supporting the struggle of Muslim Afghan people although it may put some of its world-wide interests at risk.

The Afghan people alone should determine the fate of their country as well as their future government, Khamene'i said. He noted that there was no doubt that the struggling Afghan people continue to use Islam as their criterion in determining the fate of their country.

Representatives of Afghan people should certainly be present in any talks, said Khamene'i noting that there was no doubt that the ruling Kabul regime is not the people's true representative.

The head of the Supreme Defence Council furthermore said that both the U.S. and the Soviet Union opposed Islam. So, he added, it is vital for Muslims to maintain their solidarity.

Khamene'i advised the Afghan freedom fighters to follow the "neither-east-nor-west" policy of the Islamic revolution. The president said that no true revolution relied on the U.S. or the Soviet Union and that no country should compromise with one enemy in order to defeat another.

/12913

CSO: 4665/412

NAJIBULLAH INTERVIEW TO ISLAMABAD PAPER

LD132128 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Jul 86

/Announcer-read "text" of recent interview with Najibullah, PDPA Central Committee general secretary, by (Mosha'in Husain Said), editor of the Islamabad newspaper THE MUSLIM; date and place not given/

/Text/ /Question/ Why was it necessary to change the general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee? Was it for one of the following reasons:

- A. The failure of the party to broaden its social base among the people of Afghanistan?
- B. Because of the internal disputes or different political views in the party?
- C. Due to personal factors?

/Answer/ The 18th PDPA Central Committee plenum endorsed the proposal of Comrade Babrak Karmal that he be relieved of the post of the PDPA Central Committee general secretary in view of his health. A decision was also made, in view of the congestion of the duties of the party and government leadership under the country's present circumstances and conditions, regarding the distribution of the duties of the general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

The decisions of the 18th PDPA Central Committee Plenum have enriched the process of strengthening and consolidating of the principles of the party's collective leadership and have fundamental importance in completing the government and party system. These are the real reasons for the decision of the 18th PDPA Central Committee plenum.

/Question/ Has the attitude of your party vis-a-vis the opposition changed? Is it envisaged that talks will be held with sections of the Mojahedin who are fighting inside Afghanistan and have no links with foreign powers?

/Answer/ In this respect the policy of our party, the PDPA, has been reflected in the decisions and resolutions of the PDPA Central Committee's plenums including the 16th PDPA Central Committee plenum in which the 10 theses of the Revolutionary Council were endorsed. In these resolutions explanations



were given about the issue of securing a nationwide peace and promoting the policy of national reconciliation vis-a-vis those are standing against the revolutionary sovereignty due to the propaganda of the reaction and imperialism.

The material and arms assistance of the imperialist camp and complete dependence of the chieftains of the bands to them have played a major role in the formation, organization, and guiding of the activities of all counterrevolutionary bands who are hostile to our revolution. Therefore, the chieftains of these bands are traitors to the national (?interests). They, in the framework of the undeclared war against our people and homeland, every day commit dreadful crimes; however, they disclaim any kind of link with foreign countries. All threads of the undeclared war against our country, people and revolution, are woven by the hand of imperialism and its dependents in the region, and the militarist regime of Islamabad. With those who unconsciously have taken position on the ranks of the counterrevolutionaries that is to say deceived persons (?we) we will however deal with kindness, mercy, and reconciliation. With all those who have unconsciously taken positions in the ranks of the counterrevolutionaries—that is to say deceived persons.

/Question/ Is the PDPA united behind your leadership or there are still traces of disputes between Khalq and Parcham?

/Answer/ The internal disputes that you have mentioned belong to the past and to the lessons learned in the history of our party. We hope and we intend that this tragedy will never again be repeated.

/Question/ How do you assess the possibility for progress in the upcoming Geneva talks which are due to be held on 30 July? What are, in your view, the major obstacles in particular in relation to the fourth point?

/Answer/ In relation to the progress of future Geneva talks, it must be said that we will maintain our constructive stand. In the past rounds of talks we followed a principled policy based on a political determination, goodwill, and the necessary flexibility. The fact is that how the results of the talks end up depends to the opposite side. If the opposite side, in consideration of the will and interests of their people, takes a similar stand vis-a-vis our side, undoubtedly there will be the possibility for progress.

Due to the agreements and understandings between the parties to the talks, we cannot (?discuss) in detail the relevant issues. As a whole we can say that there are still unsolved issues which require (?solutions).

/Question/ According to my information there still remain two major points in relation to the different of views: The issue of timetable for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan and the issue regarding the supervision and correctness of /word indistinct/ the withdrawal? Can you explain the stand of your country in relation to the above two points?

/Answer/ As I explained in answering your previous question there are still unsolved issues in the talks. The issue of the return of the limited units of the Soviet Union is among these (?issues). Of course, we should point out

here that all issues raised in the talks are linked with each other so that they must be solved as a whole. What is relevant to the last point of your question: we cannot give an explanation due to the observations which I have referred to earlier.

/Question/ Are you prepared to shorten the limit of the period for the return of the foreign forces which is adhered to your side to the Geneva talks? As you know Afghanistan has presented a 4-year timetable. While Pakistan is insisting on 6 months. Are you prepared, let us say, for the 4-year period to be shortened to 12 or 18 months?

/Answer/ Regarding the time limit for the return of the limited units of the Soviet Union, which is an issue confined only to the DRA and Soviet Union, we have reached agreement with this country. In determining the time limit for the return of these units we take account of the high national interests, objective internal conditions and conditions around the DRA; with such a stance in mind we participate in the talks. Of course the rumors broadcast in this respect will not effect our determination in this connection. Moreover it should be said, as clearly mentioned in the famous statement of the DRA dated 24 August 1981, a guarantee for a reliable complete cessation of armed intervention and other forms of intervention in the internal affairs of the DRA and creation of such conditions which make impossible the repetition of such intervention, must form the main and fundamental objective of the political solution of the event around Afghanistan.

/Question/ The people in Pakistan say that you as a Pashtun and ex-head of KHAD, will follow a more harsh policy vis-a-vis our country. At the very moment we are witnessing daily explosions in Peshawar, in other regions of the north-west which are being attributed to KHAD agents; can you comment in this respect?

/Answer/ Regarding the DRA relations with other countries including Pakistan I have already mentioned this in replying your earlier question. We follow the principle of noninterference in the affairs of other country and we are faithful to this.

The social process and domestic tensions which are underway at present in Pakistan society--all of them have causes and motives inside the society of Pakistan. The development of the situation, not only to us but to the world public, is clear and efforts to seek causes of this situation outside the territory of Pakistan is only and merely an effort to blind the eye of the world public, which no one would believe. You know better that the city of Peshawar and its surroundings have been transformed to a center for broadening the undeclared war against the DRA, into the black market of weapons and into a center for guiding the relevant issues regarding the training and arming of the Afghan counterrevolutionary bands, even as the situation increasingly goes out of the control of Islamabad military authorities. The militarist circles of Pakistan who themselves have lit this fire making (?futile) efforts to pick up seeds in the name of so-called KHAD agents--such efforts, will undoubtedly burn their own fingers. /sentence as heard/

/Question/ What is your opinion on so-called the issue of Pashtunistan? Is the issue still under consideration?

/Answer/ The issue you have referred to is related to Pashtuns themselves to decide whatever they want. But we always express and will express our solidarity with them according to the long traditional, cultural, religious, language and historical interests that exist between us and our Pashtu and Baluch brothers.

/Question/ Do you think Pakistan is honest in regard to its interest in a political settlement in Afghanistan?

/Answer/ The Pakistani authorities have expressed their wishes for reaching a political solution to the situation around Afghanistan, but there is a far distance between the expression of wish and taking action. Our best criteria of judgment in this regard is a political judgment on Pakistan's side. Therefore, we should wait and judge the honesty of Pakistan in light of her subsequent actions.

/Question/ Can you point out some of the mistakes that were committed by the past regimes in Afghanistan since April 1978 with the consideration of whether you will reconsider some past policies or whether you will retreat from some past policies.

/Answer/ Before the new and evolutionary stage of revolution a series of mistakes and moral declines have occurred in the key and vital spheres of the implementation of the growth of the revolutionary process such as land reform, approach to the people's tradition and culture, observance of the party standard and democratic principle in the society, understanding the society growth stage, and democratic and revolutionary tasks. With the victory of the new and evolutionary stage of revolution, the revolutionary sovereignty not only took measures to correct these mistakes, but by issuing resolutions and by enforcement of laws, has drafted the performance of the democratic and revolutionary tasks on the basis of Afghan society, which had been put into practice. The PDPA has acted according to the specifications of the national and democratic revolution of 1 April and on the basis of present facts in the Afghan society; and approach realistically in order to solve the urgent tasks of the party.

/Question/ Does your government have enough power to survive after the departure of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan?

/Answer/ You are well aware that the 1 April revolution, from the first days after the victory, enjoyed the support of our people and faced the hostile reaction of the imperialists and reactionary circles. The undeclared war headed by the U.S. imperialism has been launched with expanded dimensions against our country. Our country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity face serious danger as a result of increased aggression and intervention of reaction and imperialism. We have declared several times that when this aggression and intervention in our country's internal affairs ceases and an international guarantee given on its nonrecurrence, the limited Soviet contingents will return to their peace-loving country. I assure you that our revolutionary sovereignty has the ability to eliminate the rejected and isolated

counterrevolutionaries inside the country very soon and ensure an overall peace and security in the country. Attention must be paid to this point that the April revolution was accomplished by the will of the toiling masses of people and is the manifestation of the vital interests of all the toilers of the country. The revolutionary sovereignty has become evermore powerful with the active and self-sacrificial participation of all the toilers of the country; and its ability is enhancing furthermore in defending the independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and the outcome of revolution. We have a firm belief in our people's victory. The counterrevolutionaries will not be able to continue their shameful lives even for a day without the help of reaction and imperialism.

/Question/ If diplomatic recognition were given to Mujahidin by some countries, would this affect your approach with regard to a political solution in Geneva?

/Answer/ The legitimate DRA state has previously been recognized by a large number of countries in the world, including those countries that you are possibly thinking of to officially recognize counterrevolutionaries in the future. If one or two countries reverse their previous stand in this regard, not only will their credit at the international level be reduced, but they would be acting contrary to their stands with regard to the situation around Afghanistan. It should be mentioned that the DRA side has clearly presented her stand in this regard at the Geneva talks.

/Question/ To what extent is the support of Iran for the revolutionaries in Afghanistan?

/Answer/ The medieval regime of Iranian mullahs intervenes openly into our country's internal affairs by trampling on all the accepted international norms and standards; and in practice it has transformed itself to a criminal partner of international reaction and imperialism. The recent meeting of the Iranian president with a number of ringleaders of Afghan counterrevolutionary bands, by the order of Ayatollah Khomeyni, has revealed this fact once again.

The medieval regime of Iran spares no effort to export criminal counterrevolutionary bands to carry out sabotage and destruction in the country and kill the Muslims and toiling people of Afghanistan, and cynically claims to export the so-called Islamic revolution into our country. All such hysteric deeds by the Iran regime not only have any link with the demands and will of the toiling people of Iran but are contrary opposite to them. We are sure that day will come that the toiling people of Iran will succeed the medieval bands of Iranian mullahs and the existing obstacles on the way of Muslims and brother people of Afghanistan and Iran towards friendship, goodneighbourliness and mutual cooperation will be removed.

/Question/ How do you assess the role of China in connection to Afghanistan?

/Answer/ In the undeclared war of reaction and imperialism against the DRA there exists a black and horrible collusion between the United States, its royal hirelings and Beijing chauvinism. The apostate leadership of China plays an important and main role in this dirty war against our people and revolution.



There exist military training camps in the province of Xinjiang of China in which Afghan counterrevolutionaries receive training by Chinese instructors, equipped with Chinese weapons and are being exported to our revolutionary country for creation of horror, launching of destruction activities and killing of innocent people.

The Chinese mass media /word indistinct/ with other reactionary and imperialist mass media take an active part in the psychological war against our country. The situation is the same in diplomatic circles. The Chinese apostate carries out all-around assistance to counterrevolutionary bands stationed in Pakistan such as military training, arming and equipping them; and by exporting them into our country, they practically take part in killing of innocent people, destruction of public utility establishments and plundering the people's property. The total amount of China's military assistance to the counterrevolutionary stationed in Pakistan soil exceeds \$200 million.

/Question/ The opinion exists in Pakistan that Afghanistan eagerly encourages a movement in Paktia region and the gathering of leftist forces in Pakistan under the leadership of Wali Khan. Is this opinion true?

/Answer/ The foreign policy of the DRA is based on the principle of nonintervention into other countries' affairs and peaceful coexistence, and is interested in good relations, goodneighborliness, and mutual cooperation in all spheres with all the countries especially, with neighboring countries. What is related to the activities of political parties in Pakistan is an internal issue of Pakistan and has nothing to do with the DRA.

/Question/ Some time ago, Kabul was the headquarters of a terrorist group, Alzolfagar. What is the situation now? Has your stand changed with regard to Alzolfagar?

/Answer/ The DRA has never been a headquarters of a terrorist organization and will not be. We condemn terrorism in all its aspects and features, respect and observe all the international norms and agreements with respect to prevention and campaign against it.

/Question/ Three or four important issues that are /word indistinct/ from your regime's point of view? What are they?

/Answer/ The important issues that should be given preference to it is nationwide peace, complete crushing of the last exported counterrevolutionary bands, the peaceful solution of the situation around Afghanistan and ending to the undeclared war against the DRA. The consolidation and strengthening of the DRA Armed Forces for the safe defense of the DRA borders is an important issue.

At the top of the list of our duty is the solution of the national issue, accomplishment of cultural revolution, complete implementation of land reform process, and implementation of the first 5 years, social-economic basic guidelines for 21 March 1985-20 March 1990; and all the party and state forces and social organizations have been mobilized in this sphere.



/Question/ Please comment on the role of the United States in Afghanistan.

/Answer/ If we were to mention the devilish, aggressive and interventionist role of U.S. imperialism, head of oppression and exploitation forces of international reaction and imperialism before and after the April revolution against our country and people, we would need thousands sheets to write.

Today, U.S. imperialism, as the organizer of the undeclared war is responsible for the savage killing of thousands Afghan children and elders; responsible for the most savage crimes in a medieval manner; responsible for causing fire and destruction, which have been committed by the counterrevolutionary bands. The counterrevolutionary bands up to now have received more than \$2 billion for training and equipping the murderers with the most modern terrorist weapons and mass destruction. U.S. imperialism, embodied in the criminal and adventurous Reagan administration, which has transformed terrorism into its official state policy, is openly and shamelessly proud of these barbaric deeds which it commits against the revolutionary people of Afghanistan. The main aim of U.S. imperialism against our country is to create an obstacle to the path of the realization of the deep and basic social, and economic growth which constitutes the main objectives of our revolution.

/12228

CSO: 4665/39

KESHTMAND OUTLINES NEW ELECTION TASKS

LD031706 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 Jul 86

[Speech by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, on 2 July at the meeting of the State Commission for the Preparation and Convocation of Elections to the Organs of State Power and Administration in the Headquarters of the Council of Ministers--recorded]

[Text] Comrades and esteemed friends: Plans for elections to the local organs of the state administration in our country have been going on for a year now and this great work will be completed soon. Sufficient experience has been gained in this regard during the period that has passed. The party staff, the state apparatus and social organizations have thoroughly learned about the structure of the state.

Comrades, two months have elapsed since the convocation of the 18th plenum of the party Central Committee. You are well aware that the decisions of this plenum and its principled policy toward the reconstruction of all party, social, and (?economic matters) has been supported by the party and the people with complete unanimity. Based on my personal observations, I could say that the plenums of all provincial committees of the party were convened on a high political level. Complete support has been expressed throughout the country for the decisions of the 18th plenum. Positive reaction has been made vis-a-vis the decisions of the plenum outside the country in the Soviet Union, other countries of the socialist community, and the whole progressive world. The party and state leadership have taken a series of resolute and specific measures in connection with the military structure. Defense groups from the state level to every other level have been formed and the work of the DRA Defense Council has been developed and evolved. Recruitment and call up to the ranks of the Armed Forces have been improved and measures toward consolidating the shielding borders have been taken.

The party's attention to economic matters is being strengthened and intensified. I would like to state with satisfaction that the planned indices of the first quarter, in particular in industries and other major national economic areas have been implemented. Increased attention has been paid to agriculture and matters related to domestic and foreign trade as well as to the credit and financial system.

The policy of reconstructing party and political work has been pursued. The meaning of this policy is that the party and state staff should forego paper and help the people, leave their offices, and go to the villages in order to strengthen the link of the party with the masses.

The level of demands from leadership cadres has been enhanced. The politburo has demanded that every official in whatever rank should choose a humble life. Measures toward the strengthening of cadres have been taken. Energetic work has been undertaken in the area of the state structure too. Our meeting today is a clear manifestation of the interest of the party and state that they attach to elections to the local organs of the state power and administration. Today's session of this commission is a testimony to the fact that a great task has been completed and we have reason to express hearty thanks to those comrades who have taken an active role in advancing the elections. The work we have been advancing is directly related to the decisions of the 18th plenum and the resolutions of the 16th plenum of the party Central Committee and the statement of the DRA Revolutionary Council concerning the national democratic characteristic of the revolution and its undelayable tasks in the present conditions.

Our work is the direct broadening [as heard] of the social bases of the people's sovereignty. Therefore, the advancement of the elections of local organs of state power and administration enjoy specific importance. Elections to the local organs of state power and administration also are considered preparation for elections to the highest organ of the state power, meaning, the council of the DRA. It could be stated with confidence that the election campaign is considered a great political step by our party in the recent years toward the realization of the progressive aims of the April Revolution. The party has entrusted us with a great responsible task and we should, within a very small time frame, report to the Central Committee regarding this great struggle. Thus, by assessing and defining the tasks rendered, we should specify the following two major matters: One, what the elections give to the people, and two; what are the major tasks of the new organs of state power and administration? I would like to answer these questions here.

After its victory, the revolution brought about the following general democratic aims to all people: The elimination of the vestiges of feudal and prefeudal relations; implementation of democratic land reform, and limiting the big feudal landlords; maintaining landless and small-holder peasants from the land and water viewpoint; the growth of national economy; the raising of the living standard of the people; the growth of the national cultures of the people of Afghanistan; the democratization of the social and political life of the people; the solution of vital national questions as a whole; the elimination of the existing national disparity which has been left as a legacy of the past; the creation of reliable conditions for the purpose of gradually bringing closer together the nationalities, tribes, and ethnic groups of the country on the foundation of the equality of rights, their economic-cultural growth, and the participation of all of them in building a new and prosperous Afghanistan.

With the victory of the April Revolution, the feudals and their lackeys were rejected from society and a regime dependent on them was toppled. The country

was rescued from imperialist dependence. The period of practical work for the party began in order to implement revolutionary slogans, which was supported by the people and the people took an active part in the revolutionary changes.

In the area of the state structure, the creation of a unified system of the popular power to embrace all administrative units in all social and economic spheres is one of our fundamental tasks. The foundation of this new system is constituted of the councils of the peoples representatives, which presently are being elected by the people and are organs with complete executive power of the people. The councils of the people's representatives are effective means for organizing the absorption of the people into the administrative affairs of the state and agents for bringing together the peoples and nationalities of the country and means for strengthening the influence of the party in the process of social growth. For the first time in Afghan history, the people obtained objective and true means towards the administration of affairs. The Councils of the People's Representatives in comparison with the traditional jergas are a great stride forward. The elected organs of the people are not only in charge of settling all local matters of the people, but are a composite part of the state administration. So far, more than 1,000 people have been elected as chairmen and secretaries of the Executive Committees. Almost 8,000 people have been elected as members in the local councils of the people's representatives. With the completion of the election campaign, this number will treble.

What is the meaning of the Councils of People's Representatives? It means the observation of the rights of the DRA citizens, the base of the future development of the popular government, and a means of defending the gains of the revolution. Elections to the Councils of the People's Representatives showed that the party measures toward the formation of the new organs of the state power were fully and completely supported by the people. It provided the possibilities that in the conditions of our country the mechanism of the structure and administration of affairs of a multinational country should be created in practice. These elections are even the manifestation of the consistent policy of the party toward the solution of national questions. The representatives of tribes and nationalities are elected to the councils and their executive committees, which constitute the fundamental part of the population of the province, districts, subdistricts, cities, and villages. National minorities and even ethnic groups, too, elected their representatives. It should be fundamentally stated that the solution of national policy in Afghanistan has successfully begun and has been transformed into a real characteristic.

In the course of elections, despite the complexity of the tasks with which we were faced, we noticed the shortcomings which existed. What is needed now in order to go among the people in the villages and work actively? In order to establish link with the locals of those villages, subdistricts and districts where they have not yet realized the power of the people's rule and the truth of revolution, we should courageously go to them.

Comrades, we support the initiatives of establishing and consolidating peace in the regions, national reconciliation, and the cessation of war fratricide. The faster our people realize the reality of life and our good intentions, the



better our work can successfully strive forward. We will realize the aims of the April Revolution in a short time. In this matter too, the Councils of the People's Representatives can play a major role. I would like to state what the great Lenin said concerning the importance of the local organs of the state power and administration: We are confident that when our revolution succeeds in winning true victories, it will be because we always rely on local power and its experiences.

The role and importance of the local councils, most of all can be assessed by their closeness to the people and the masses. And it is here that the question of organization and practical activity of the new councils comes to surface.

What are the tasks of the new state organs in the present conditions? In answering this question, we refer to the PDPA Program of Action. These tasks are: Rendering uninterrupted and effective work by the state organs in the capital and the provinces toward the realization of the specific tasks of the April Revolution; implementing and propagating the principle of democratic centralism in the activity of the state organs and realizing its future development and the maintenance of necessary coordination between the central leadership with the initiatives and activities of the local organs; administering the democratization of the state power and its dependent organs; expanding and consolidating links with the people and efforts to realize the needs and demands of the people; electing and selecting cadres in the state structure who are loyal to the cause of the revolution; struggling against bureaucracy, misuse and bribery and eliminating these diseases from the state apparatus.

The major tasks of the Council of Ministers, ministries, and departments of all state organs and the councils of the people's representatives under the present conditions are broadening and consolidating the sovereignty of the people's revolution on the basis of national compromise. The essence of our state power emanates from the national democratic characteristic of the April revolution and that is the broad participation of the representatives of all social strata, true patriots including the workers, peasants, medium-size land owners, artisans, intellectuals, the staff of the armed forces, national investors, spirituals and social figures of all the nationalities, tribes and clans in leading the state administration and in the political, social, and economic life of the country. The existence of the aforementioned categories of the people in the composition of the new councils of the people, manifest the closeness of the new local organs of the state power to the people and are indicative of the desires of all strata of the people. This matter is also indicative of the special role and important authority of the councils of peoples representatives in the future expansion and consolidation of the social bases among the people.

The councils of people's representatives and their executive committees should use their influence and authority expedite the process of national reconciliation, expand the area of state power and elections in all villages, subdistricts, and districts. The elections of new local organs put before them the tasks of organization of practical activity. The plans and measures of the executive committee are usually defined and outlined in the first



session of the councils of people's representatives. However, under no circumstances should these limit their work. The executive committees are dutybound, in a routine and operational manner, to take steps in connection with local questions without receiving instructions from higher authorities. Their reference should be the Law of Local Organs of the DRA State Power and Administration. The power of the councils of people's representatives and their executive committees lies in initiative, collective leadership and the independence of their activity.

After their elections, the executive committees are dutybound to: Take steps to improve the economic activity of the people; give practical assistance to peasants, workers, artisans, shop keepers and other categories of the people; maintain the just distribution of water, chemical fertilizer, and aid; cooperate in building shops and houses; help repair roads and clean water channels, canals, and wells; take steps to eliminate illiteracy, assist in repairing schools, organize the enrollment of children and juveniles in schools, and concentrate serious attention on the organization of health assistance to the people. In other words it should be said that the executive committees of the councils of people's representatives should be transformed into authorities which the people will go to with great enthusiasm. These committees should be placed in localities where their support and assistance could benefit every citizen of the country. If the demands of the people cannot be met by the executive committees, then they should be given satisfactory answers. Also a series of major questions exist which should be solved in the central organs of the state and without their solutions the effective and fruitful activity of the local councils of the people's representatives is not possible.

In order to successfully accomplish their tasks, the authority of the executive committees of the councils of people's representatives should be expanded and this necessitates the transfer of a series of tasks from the ministries to the executive committees. The executive committees should have budgetary funds and the necessary economic means. They should organize the system of education and training and the questions of election of cadres. The salaries of the state staff and officials in the regions should be paid in accordance with the new needs and all other questions of the state structure in the regions should be solved.

I would like to state with confidence that the State Commission for the Preparation and Convocation of Elections of the Local Organs of the State Power and Administration is successfully concluding its work and the members of the commission will utilize the experiences they have earned in other areas of work for the prosperity of the people of Afghanistan. Thank You.  
[applause]

/12913  
CSO: 4665/41

KESHMAND SPEAKS ON KABUL FOOD SUPPLIES

LD111347 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Jul 86

[Speech by Comrade Soltan Ali Keshmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, on 9 July in the Storey Palace of the Ministry of Foreign affairs on food supplies to Kabul City--recorded]

[Text] Comrades, friends, noble and toiling peasants.

The fundamental guideline of the country's socioeconomic development plan for 1365-1369 [5 years beginning 21 March 1986] is the first comprehensive postrevolution socioeconomic draft program which envisages the growth of all sectors of the national economy and a rise in the material and cultural level of our society, and which serves the interest of the people of Afghanistan. The plan put forward for the current year, on the basis of fundamental guidelines of the socioeconomic plan, is being successfully implemented.

In the government plans, special attention is being paid to the need for the fundamental improvement of work in the villages and an acceleration of the solution of land issues as one of the major duties of the national and democratic revolution, so that each peasant perceives the attention of the government and then transforms himself into a confident ally of the new revolutionary sovereignty. As is clear, Afghanistan, fundamentally, is an agricultural country and the major portion of its inhabitants live in villages: approximately 60 percent of gross output and 66 percent of the national income is obtained from agricultural output.

The fundamental front of struggle for the realization of the objectives of the revolution is underway in the villages. Therefore, extended measures for the restoration of existing irrigation systems, construction of systems and new irrigation installations, acceleration of the land and water reform process, an improved supply of seed, chemical fertilizer, agricultural machinery and tools and industrial materials for peasants along with the required credits, improving agrotechnical services, veterinary and other agricultural services [words indistinct] are envisaged in the draft of the fundamental guidelines.

In order to accomplish these duties, government assistance in the coming five years will be quadrupled compared to the past five years. This, among other

things will provide the possibility for providing water to an area of 1 million hectares of land for the purpose of assisting peasants and landowners so as to increase agricultural production. Moreover, in view of the decisions of the high tribal jerga, formidable work will be accomplished to irrigate pastures and to assist cattle breeders.

Despite formidable assistance being given to peasants, cooperatives and land owners by the government, and much attention being paid to the growth of agriculture and agricultural output, the (?prices) of some agricultural output, particularly vegetables and fruit, continuously increase. For example, in 1364 (year ended 21 March 1986)--compared to 1363, the foodstuff price rise index including domestic production and imported commodities, reach 7 percent. However, this index regarding vegetable prices is 23 percent, and for fruit, 17 percent; their effects are felt more in Kabul city. Here the issue is not of a decrease in the output of vegetable and fruit, as the output of vegetables and summer crops in 1363 reached 932,000 metric tons, and in 1364 reached 920,000 metric tons [words indistinct] which in comparison to 1357 (year beginning March 1978) are more by 166,000 metric tons and 154,000 metric tons, or an increase of 22 percent and 20 percent respectively.

From the viewpoint of fruit output the picture is also the same. The reason for vegetable price rises, particularly in Kabul city, is the limited land possibilities for growing vegetables, and also increased transportation costs. The responsibility for this rests on the criminal counterrevolutionaries who, by their subversive deeds, create barriers for the normal transportation of commodities. The owners of private transport also behave unjustly in this respect.

The organization of transportation by the respective government authorities is being carried out unsatisfactorily. It is for this reason that the present session was convened, so that practical measures will be taken for a better supply, particularly from the viewpoint of vegetables, to the inhabitants of Kabul city. In this respect, active cooperation of you, peasants and members of the agricultural cooperatives of Kabul Province is required.

This year, the government will also give considerable assistance to the peasants and agricultural cooperatives in Kabul Province. It is envisaged that a sizeable amount of chemical fertilizer and some 2,000 tons of improved wheat seed will be distributed to peasants while the volume of the provinces' mechanized activities will be increased 3-fold. However, the formidable effort to supply Kabul city with food which falls on the agricultural and irrigation groups, is not being properly realized.

The population of Kabul City in the recent years has rapidly increased and the city has been transformed into a large administrative and livelihood center. It is envisaged that various agricultural products; foodstuffs; and other consumer commodities; in particular, vegetable, fruits, milk, meat, eggs, and other agricultural products; be imported to the city in continuous and sufficient quantity. However, supplies of these commodities are limited in proportion to the requirement demands of the city inhabitants. Such a situation has resulted in food shortages and higher prices in the open market

which has a negative influence on the financial and economic situation of the families in Kabul city.

Taking advantage of the feeble activities by government organs and cooperatives--suppliers of agricultural products hoard and overcharge peasants for foodstuffs. There are special problems due to the lack of storage and refrigerator storage for agricultural products, above all perishables such as vegetables, fruits, milk and meat.

Moreover, we can mention a series of other factors which increased consumer demand for foodstuffs and created higher prices. However, it is important that practical measures be taken to eliminate shortages. The PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Council of Ministers have defined and analyzed the factors and shortages, including the necessary measures to be taken to improve the supply of agricultural products to Kabul city.

The Council of Ministers approved a resolution in 1984 on supplying vegetable and dairy products to Kabul inhabitants in which specific organizational measures to solve this issue were determined and outlined. In accordance with the resolution of the Council of Ministers, [word indistinct] farms for the production of agricultural and dairy products were created in a number of institutions and city enterprises; most of the inhabitants of Kabul city and Kabul Province districts were attracted to this project, in particular to poultry farming.

The first stage of construction on a dairy farm in Reshkhur with the capacity for 550 cows has started which, when completed, could supply 4,000-5,000 bottles of milk daily to Kabul city inhabitants.

Construction is being completed on Badambagh poultry farm with a capacity for 33,000 hens and 130,000 chicks which will produce 7.6 million eggs and 260 tons of meat annually for the city.

The reconstruction and expansion of Bagrami Poultry Farm with the capacity of 16,000-18,000 hens is underway and this farm will be able to sell a large number of breeding chicks to peasants and agricultural cooperatives in Kabul Province.

Construction has begun on greenhouses for producing vegetable plants and seeds for distribution to peasants in Kabul Province and in the future a farm for growing improved vegetable seeds with a higher productivity will be created in Bagrami District.

With the realization of the aforementioned measures to improve agricultural and animal production nationwide and in Kabul Province, we could undoubtedly maintain the inhabitants in the capital as far as food supplies. Furthermore, during the next two years, individual peasant agricultural cooperatives and state farms in Kabul Province, should enhance the production and supply of agricultural and livestock products by broadly utilizing state assistance. In accomplishing this aim, they will enjoy the necessary support of the party and state organs.



The question could be asked why the peasants in Kabul instead of growing potatoes and other vegetables and fruits, traditionally grow wheat? Such a situation should not be accepted. The Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform and the executive committee of the council of people's representative of the Kabul Province, jointly with the ministries and relevant departments, should study this question and take measures to replace such farming and production, of course, taking into consideration the interests of the farmers and producers. Farmers and cooperatives, who allocate their lands for the cultivation of vegetables, fruits, and gardens, could buy wheat and other basic needs at privileged state prices according to protocols; and their produce could be purchased at just prices and sold. Residents in the capital and also at state establishments, departments, and enterprises should not avoid this very important matter either and by utilizing existing water and land resources, and material and technical possibilities, increase agricultural produce and supply it for marketing.

Ministries and departments should pay serious attention to supplying the inhabitants of Kabul city with foodstuffs and should solve, immediately and without further delay, questions concerning this matter. The Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform, Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Planning Committee, the Peasants Cooperative Union, the Executive Committees of the Councils of People's Representatives of Kabul city and the province should determine and solve all complex matters related to farm maintenance in the province such as: creating irrigation, transport and financial facilities; providing opportunities to sell produce in the city; and providing security for the projects. The aforementioned ministries and departments are dutybound to submit to the Council of Ministers specific proposals within two months concerning those questions which require the government's decision. In particular, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform should enhance the effectiveness of leadership in agriculture and improve the work of the state apparatus. It should maintain close relations with Kabul province. Work should continue and be improved to enhance mutual cooperation between state organs, individual farmers, and agricultural cooperatives; to maintain their economic interests on the basis of agreements for the purchase of various types of agricultural products, mutual supply of chemical fertilizer, seeds, plants, veterinary and technical services, mechanized agricultural activities, and provide other necessary assistance.

In order to solve the problem of foodstuffs supply, agricultural cooperatives can play a major role. It is necessary that new cooperatives be formed and the existing ones strengthened. Necessary assistance should be extended to them. These cooperatives should be transformed into exemplary social farms for the production and sale of meat, milk, vegetables, and other produce.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform is commissioned to open a sufficient number of exhibitions on production of various plants in the province as well as in the city to show the farmers the healthy cultivation of plants and vegetables, the cultivation of land by mechanized and other advanced methods of work. In Kabul Province, city, and districts, a specific program of agricultural products, and foremost potatoes, onions, and other



vegetables and fruits should be formulated distinguishing the state, agricultural cooperatives, and private farms.

The State Planning Committee, together with the relevant departments, should assess the question on opening farms and new state enterprises; on selling agricultural and animal products in Kabul City and its environs, and should submit specific proposals on their study to the Council of Ministers.

The Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources is dutybound, foremost, to take specific measures on cleaning canals, water channels, irrigation networks, and on repairing and protecting water dams, as well as on precisely distributing water in accordance with the current laws. For this work, the ministry should organize broad voluntary and collective work, attracting youth, farmers, members of the agricultural cooperatives, and the cooperation of the state organs and socio-economic organizations. The ministry should study the possibilities of using underground water for irrigation in Kabul Province and the areas near the city in particular where vegetables are grown.

The peasant cooperatives union is commissioned to increase the number of vegetable shops in various parts of the city. It should directly purchase products where they are grown, for example in the nearby provinces of Nagarhar and Parwan, on contract and then transport them to the market and shops for supply. In this way it will be possible to reduce profiteering and the unjust influence of various hoarders, stabilize prices, and meet the ever-increasing consumer demands for agricultural products.

The Ministry of Commerce is dutybound together with its relevant organs to solve questions on marketing agricultural products inside and outside the country, and also on production of various foodstuffs including poultry meat in line with needs and the appropriate and useful state conditions. Of particular importance is solving the problem of transporting foodstuffs including chicken over land in order to reduce the selling price of such products. For peasants who, according to agreements, supply vegetables, agricultural products, and fruits to Kabul citizens, the primary goods such as sugar, tea, soap, flour, and wheat should be bartered.

Until the completion of the work to balance foodstuff, the Ministry of Commerce should import foods, poultry, and other birds from abroad, and distribute them to farmers on the basis of barter by exchanging them for agricultural products. The Ministry, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform, should study the possibility of importing the ducks which can be raised on land.

Very important tasks in connection with the supply of foodstuff to Kabul city lie before the Ministry of Transport. The role of transport is very important. For this purpose, trucks belonging to the state and private sector should be employed for transporting agricultural products from the neighboring provinces to Kabul. In this regard, priority and necessary privileges should be granted to those truck drivers who, under contract, transport agricultural products from the agricultural cooperatives and individual farmers.

The Ministry of Light Industries and Foodstuffs can also play a great role in this important social and state matter--maintaining food supplies to the capital. This ministry should intensify its activity for the realization of measures concerning the conservation and preservation of products, primarily vegetables. In this regard the feasibility of forming new establishments for processing and conserving products should be studied.

It is worth mentioning that state credits play an important role in realizing the aforementioned measures. The Afghanistan Bank is dutybound, together with its subsidiaries, to study the question of granting bank credits to farmers and agricultural cooperatives for the purchase of small agricultural machine tools and to grant credits on easy terms to vegetable and fruit farmers. Farmers should repay their loans from the sale of their agricultural products.

The Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other departments are dutybound to procure their required agricultural produce not from the Kabul market, but from other provinces where the greatest amount of vegetable, fruits and livestock are produced and then transport them to Kabul. They should also expand and increase farms of such products. This would prevent price rises in Kabul and will considerably improve the balance of foodstuffs in Kabul city. A previous decision in this regard exists, but in some cases has not been implemented.

The State Planning Committee is commissioned to assess all proposals which arrive from the ministries and departments in connection with the questions discussed today, to seek possibilities for additional funds for this purpose, and to adopt the necessary measures for making effective and rational the use of these allocations.

The Executive Committee of the Council of People's Representatives of Kabul City is commissioned to solve, consistently and seriously, matters related to maintaining supplies of food and other products to Kabul citizens and to organize shops and markets throughout the city for the sale of vegetables, fruit and livestock. Mostly, due to the lack of sale centers, products do not get sold on time; they rot, and it justifiably causes complaints from farmers and agricultural cooperatives.

The City Council Executive Committee should seriously control the price of foodstuffs and other products and should take measures in this regard which are responsive to the interests of retailers as well as consumers. It is necessary that the question of renting market places for the sale of vegetables and fruits in the city, which adds to increased sale prices, should be studied and reconsidered in joint efforts with the Ministry of Finance.

The City Council Executive Committee should pay special attention to improving the activity of the existing provisional farms and create new farms in city departments, establishments and enterprises. Sufficient work exists in this regard for all departments and establishments and every individual.

I address you --farming representatives, members of agricultural cooperatives, and direct producers of agricultural products--and through you, all farmers of Kabul Province. The successful solution of the question concerning the supply

of foodstuff to Kabul citizens depends on your noble and patriotic work. We request you sell your surplus production to the state on the basis of contracts, and to refrain from selling to hoarders. We request you engage in cultivating products, particularly vegetables and fruit, that will yield you and Kabul citizens more benefit. We request you take active part in clearing water channels and canals, and other collective work. You can jointly build common stores for your vegetables and fruits in order to preserve your products and then supply them to the market when the need arises.

In order to produce vegetables throughout the year, primarily in the winter season, you can build greenhouses with plastic roofs; the state will give all possible assistance. If you desire to establish poultry farms for producing eggs or raising chickens for meat, or if you want to have cattle, sheep and other types of farm on your own lands, the state will give you comprehensive assistance in the form of chicks, thoroughbred animals, medicine, and other forms, and will purchase your products at fixed and encouraging prices.

If you have export commodities, for example raisons, sell them to the state trade establishments at fair prices and obtain case in advance, thereby alleviating your problems under defined conditions. If you and your families can engage in producing handicrafts, carpets, leather products and so forth, the relevant state departments will help you in financial and technical matters, and your products will be purchased at fair and encouraging prices.

Comrades and esteemed friends.

In today's session we have expressed views on important issues in a democratic atmosphere. All the proposals and matters discussed at this meeting will be thoroughly assessed by the ministries and departments, and the necessary measures will be taken.

We hope participants at this meeting will carry out the issues which concern you with interest and resolve so you can successfully accomplish the tasks that the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Council of Ministers have put before you in connection with maintaining food supplies to the inhabitants of Kabul City. Thank you. [applause]

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## BRIEFS

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS--Kabul, 13 July, BAKHTAR--In the spring sowing campaign of the current Afghan year, 1986, over 105,000 hectares of land was brought under cultivation of wheat, cotton and cereals in Balkh and Faryab provinces of the DRA. More than 43 million Afghanis worth of improved wheat seeds, chemical fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides were distributed to individual peasants and members of agricultural cooperatives in these provinces. [Excerpt] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 14 Jul 86 LD] /12913

FARMING INCOME, INVESTMENT--Kabul, 13 July, BAKHTAR--Agricultural income constitutes 60 percent of gross national product, GNP, and 66 percent of national income of the DRA. In order to develop agricultural and irrigation, an investment of over fifteen billion Afghanis have been envisaged in the first post-revolutionary development plan. With the implementation of the first post-revolution development plan an area of about four million hectares of land will be cultivated. The gross agricultural product will be increased by about 16 percent by 1991. An area of at least 70 thousand hectares of land will be irrigated. With the implementation of the plan, the production of cereals and grains will amount to five million tons. [Excerpt] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0520 GMT 14 Jul 86 LD] /12913

COOPERATION PROTOCOL WITH USSR--Kabul, 19 July, BAKHTAR--A cooperation protocol was concluded between the Union of Artists of the DRA and the Compositor Union of the USSR. On the strength of the protocol, the Union of Compositors of the USSR will provide the possibility of participation of artistic works of Afghan musicians at the world festival which will be held in the USSR. Likewise the protocol provides the invitation of Afghan musicians to the USSR for practical work and making use of the experience of Soviet musicians. Likewise the documents of musical instruments worth 2.5 million Afghanis as gratis aid of the Union of Compositors of the USSR was submitted by (Sharafuddin Saifuddinov), president of the Union of Compositors of the USSR to Hamid Jalia, president of the Artists Union of the DRA. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 20 Jul 86 LD] /12913

SCIENTIFIC PROTOCOL WITH USSR--A protocol on scientific and educational cooperation between Kabul University and the State University of Tajikistan for 1986-87 was concluded in Kabul. Under the protocol a number of Kabul University teachers will be sent to Tajikistan University to increase their scientific knowledge and enhance their expertise. In addition, Afghan-Soviet scientific circles will take part in the educational conferences of the teachers and students of the two countries. [Excerpt] [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Jun 86 LD] /12913

CSO: 4665/41



## PAPERS REPORT ON BANGLADESH-ROK RELATIONS

### Joint Commission Meets

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 18 Jun 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The first meeting of the Joint-Commission of Bangladesh and Republic of Korea yesterday reviewed the existing trade relations and discussed the possibilities of increasing Korean investments in Bangladesh.

The Joint Commission agreed to work for expanding the economic ties and narrow down the growing trade imbalance between Dhaka and Seoul.

The two sides also decided to set up a standing committee shortly to take up the issues agreed at the meeting and promote all round economic cooperation between the two nations.

The committee will meet alternately at each others capital.

The Joint Commission between the two countries was set up during President H.M. Ershad visit to Republic of Korea last year.

The South Korean side at the talks was led by its Foreign Minister Won Kyung Lee, who arrived earlier in the day for a three-day official visit, from Pakistan on the fourth leg of a South Asian trip, that will take him to Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Bangladesh side was led by Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Choudhury.

Before the Joint Commission's meeting began at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Won held talks for about forty minutes with Humayun Rasheed Choudhury.

The two sides discussed at length various international issues and reunification of Ko-

rean peninsula. Mr Won explained his country's proposals regarding the unification of two Koreas.

Mr Humayun Rasheed Choudhury also informed his South Korean counterpart that Dhaka would shortly set up its resident mission in Seoul. At present Bangladesh Ambassador in Tokyo is concurrently accredited to Seoul.

After the meeting of the Joint Commission, M. K. Anwar Secretary, External Resources division briefed newsmen on the outcome of the meeting. He said Foreign Minister Choudhury who led a 12 member Bangladesh delegation appraised the leader of the seven-member South Korean team led by Mr Won Bangladesh's efforts for pla development during the last few years. He also gave a brief account of the difficulties the country faced in attaining economic progress and the efforts undertaken to overcome these Mr anwar said.

Mr Anwar further said that the talks were exploratory in nature, and the two sides had discussed the existing relations between the two countries and expressed satisfaction at the way it was growing. The discussions covered trade, industrial collaboration, technical cooperation and rural development. It also touched upon transport and communications and cultural cooperation, he added.

Mr Anwar said that there was clear urge by the two sides

to raise trade and use manpower from Bangladesh. He said that Bangladesh had requested the Korean side to hire more workers from Bangladesh to work in the projects of various South Korean construction companies. At present, there are nearly 10,000 Bangladeshis working with various South Korean construction companies abroad.

He said that the two leaders took serious note of trade imbalance between Dhaka and Seoul. They discussed ways and means to level the imbalance. Bangladesh side proposed inclusion of new items in Seoul import list of raw and finished jute, petroleum products and handicrafts. The new items proposed by Bangladesh includes newsprint, tea, leather and leather goods, tobacco, potato, tomato paste, fruit juice, furniture, sanitaryware, jute twines, hardboard and insulators.

The South Koreans suggested that Bangladesh should take care of the quality of its exportable.

Turning to the growing trade imbalance between the two countries, Mr Anwar said that Bangladesh which imports electronics, textiles, fibre, steel, industrial goods and honey from South Korea had imported 56.06 million US dollars worth of goods against its exports of 2.56 million dollars during the 1984-85 fiscal year.

In 1981-82, the export was worth 6.20 million dollars and import 18.77 million dollars, in

1982-83, export 0.21 million dollars and import 28.46 million dollars and in 1983-84, export was worth 0.14 million dollars as against import of 25.36 million dollars.

Bangladesh side called for increasing South Korean investment in Bangladesh. At present there are 14 joint venture projects, mostly in garments and textiles sector, where South Korean businessmen had invested.

Bangladesh also suggested that there are new areas of joint venture projects where Seoul could invest further. These are, Mr Anwar said, assembly and manufacture of railway Carriages at Chittagong Dry Dock, manufacture of transformers at GEM plant, polyester fibre, aluminium and PVC, electronic components, textiles, cement, leather and tyres and tubes.

#### RESIDENT MISSION IN SEOUL

BSS adds: Bangladesh has decided to set up a resident mission in Seoul, the capital of the Republic of Korea, within a short time.

This was intimated by Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury to his Korean

counterpart Mr Won-Kyung-lee when the latter called on him at his office.

Briefing newsmen on the outcome of the meeting which lasted for nearly 40 minutes, Foreign Secretary Mr Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury said the two foreign ministers observed that the relations between the two countries should be further developed for the betterment of both the nations. They viewed that the first meeting of Bangladesh-Korea Joint Commission held in Dhaka yesterday was a right step in that direction.

Mr Chowdhury said both the foreign ministers discussed the situation in West Asia, Southern Africa and Korean peninsula and issues like South-South Cooperation and Gulf War. They stressed on strengthening the role of United Nations in solving global problems. Mr. Won expressed the hope the General Assembly of the UN under the presidency of Bangladesh foreign minister will deliver positive outcome.

Replying to a question, Mr Faruq Chowdhury said the Bangladesh's resident mission in Seoul will be set up within the

next fiscal year. At the present Bangladesh Ambassador in Tokyo is concurrently accredited to South Korea. Korea established its resident mission in Dhaka in early 1975 he added.

The foreign secretary said both foreign ministers held similar views on a number of international issues and expressed their determination to work together for their mutual benefit.

#### ARRIVAL

Mr. Won-Kyung Lee, arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a three day official visit at the head of a five member delegation to attend the first meeting of the Joint Commission.

Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury received the South Korean Minister at the airport as he arrived from Pakistan on the second leg of a four-nation trip.

South Korean ambassador in Dhaka Mr. Ki An Chang was also present.

During his visit, Mr Lee also call on President Hussain Muhammad Ershad.

An agreement on investment promotion and protection between the two countries is also expected to be signed during the visit officials said.

### Investment Promotion Agreement

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 19 Jun 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Bangladesh and the Republic of Korea (ROK) on Wednesday signed an agreement on investment promotion and protection desiring an agreement on investments by nationals and companies of one state in the territory of other state, reports BSS.

The visiting ROK Foreign Minister, Mr. Won-Kyung Lee, and Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator and Minister for Industries, Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, initialled the agreement on behalf of their respective countries at a function held at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Sangsad Bhaban.

Earlier Mr. Won-Kyung call-

ed on the DCMLA and discussed with him matters of bilateral interest.

Another report adds: South Korea has expressed willingness to encourage its enterprises in Bangladesh to actively participate in the country's development projects.

The intent was expressed during formal talks between the visiting South Korean Foreign Minister Won-Kyung Lee and his Bangladesh counterparts Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury, a joint press release issued in Dhaka on Wednesday.

The Bangladesh side appreciated the performances of the Korean enterprises in the country and held out the assurances

of fostering a "favourable atmosphere" for further participation of Korean enterprises in Bangladesh, the press release said.

During the talks, the two sides noted with satisfaction that economic cooperation between Dhaka and Seoul had been carried out to the mutual benefit in the spirit of South-South cooperation.

Bangladesh side expressed the hope for increase in the scientific and technical cooperation while the Korean side said that their government was ready to invite some Bangladeshi trainees to their country and provide consultant services.

During the talks, Bangladesh announced its decision to esta-

lish a resident mission in Seoul soon towards enhancing overall cooperation in various fields.

The two foreign ministers also exchanged views on a wide range of matters of mutual concern and interest and discussed regional and international issues.

Foreign Minister Lee briefed his Bangladesh counterpart on the present situation in the Korean Peninsula and explained the efforts of his government for peaceful unification of Korea through dialogue with North Korea.

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister reaffirmed the position of Bangladesh that the Korean

question should be resolved peacefully through dialogue as agreed upon by the two Korean sides and in accordance with the principles laid down in their joint declaration of 1972.

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister took the opportunity to brief his Korean counterpart on the recent development in South Asia and progress achieved with regard to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

The South Korean Foreign Minister expressed deep appreciation of the Bangladesh efforts in this regard, the joint press release said.

### ROK Foreign Minister's Departure

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 20 Jun 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

South Korean Foreign Minister Won-Kyung-Lee left Dhaka on Thursday for Bangkok en route to Sri Lanka and the Maldives concluding a three-day "very useful visit to Bangladesh" reports BSS.

"The visit will surely contribute to the strengthening of our relations which have already been very excellent and close", he told news men at the airport before departure. Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Choudhury gave his Korean counterpart a hearty send-off at the airport. South Korean Ambassador in Dhaka, Mr. Ki An Chang, was also present.

The South Korean Foreign Minister said the visit, though very brief, had "given me an opportunity to learn much more in-depth about your country. It will help promote bilateral relations". He said the visit also gave chance to him and the members of his delegation to follow-up the decisions of leaders of the two countries taken last year when President H. M. Ershad paid a state visit

to Seoul.

Mr. Won said during the talks the two sides discussed "follow-up arrangement" that are being planned to "make our relationship more useful". He said there was scope for further promoting bilateral economic cooperation, particularly joint venture industries, and expressed the hope that the two sides would continue to seek such collaboration among developing countries.

The Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea arrived in Dhaka last Tuesday at the head of a five-member delegation to attend the first meeting of the Bangladesh-South Korean Joint Commission. Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Choudhury later said that talks with the South Korean Foreign Minister were "very fruitful. We discussed wide ranging subjects, particularly on intensification of bilateral relations".

Referring to the conclusion of the investment promotion and protection agreement, the Foreign Minister said it would go a long way in forging economic and technical coopera-

tion between the two countries. Asked about the existing trade imbalance which favoured Seoul, he said the Korean government had expressed its willingness to help in narrowing the gap through importing more from Bangladesh.

He said during the talks, both sides agreed to rectify the trade imbalance. But he added that the governments of the two countries "can only guide in this regard." It will largely opened on our businessmen and exporters as well as the Korean business community to get the economic and trade relations going and working to our mutual benefits". Mr. Choudhury said the Bangladesh side had given the Koreans a list of items that could be exported to Korea adding that it would all depend on "businessmen contacts" for intensifying trade and economic relations. In this context, the Foreign Minister referred to a businessmen delegation which left Dhaka on Thursday on a four-nation trip to the Far East and South East Asian countries including South Korea.

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CSO: 4600/1905

# LEFTISTS REPORTED 'COMPLETELY IN DISARRAY'

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 19 Jun 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The leftist and left leaning parties now completely in disarray following the national parliament polls appear to be making renewed efforts to unite and draw a new programme of action. But the initiators of the move seem to be swinging between optimism and despair.

Initiators-- some of them visibly-- feel that the efforts were not met with the expected warm reception.

The initiators of the move are mainly from the erstwhile 15-party alliance which has now been divided into two alliance of 5 parties and 6 parties while three other parties are maintaining contact with none. One left political party now in the 7-party alliance is also taking keen interest in the move.

Prof Muzaffar Ahmed, chief of Bangladesh National Awami Party (M) who is now in the Awami League led alliance, said that a move was on although he expressed a very guarded optimism in this regard.

He said even when the 15-party alliance was in full shape, the left leaning parties used

to sit separately in an informal manner so that they could put progressive viewpoints in resolutions and programmes of the alliance. "We are trying to achieve better understanding among those parties", he said. Bangladesh Sanyabadi Dal chief Mr Mohammad Toaha said he had contacted many a leftist leader and got positive response in this regard. He said, he had been trying for left unity since 1974.

He said the process now had a fresh start. The exchange of ideas in this regard, however, still remained restricted to a bilateral level, he said. Mr Toaha said, two such initiatives were taken also in 1983 and 1985. In 1985 nothing could be done because "some friends did not like to annoy the Awami League". But these "friends were first to leave the 15-party alliance when differences of opinion surfaced", he said.

He hinted that a group of intellectuals led by progressive writer Mr Badruddin Umar was also very much interested in bringing about leftist unity,

and hoped that they would also be with the latest initiative.

According to Prof Muzaffar Ahmed, Mr Nazrul Islam, of Bangladesh Workers Party (Nazrul) was also one of the initiators of the move. Prof Muzaffar however, lamented that honest leftists were rarely seen these days. Some people who talked about strengthening left politics subsequently sacrificed such politics to become ministers, he alleged. "How can you call one a leftist who is more concerned about immediate self benefits", he asked.

The urge for left unity is based mainly on the feeling that the "bourgeoisie parties" forget promises about improving the lot of the commonman and the oppressed and betray with movement when they sense that power is within their reach. The initiative for left unity came in 1985 when it appeared that some such parties which had talked about resisting some elections, actually sat idle or did other, while when those elections were held, another leftist leader confided,

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CSO: 4600/1905



# PAPER REPORTS ON ERSHAD VISIT TO BHUTAN

3 June Banquet

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Jun 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

THIMPHU (Bhutan) June 3:—President Hussain Muhammad Ershad today said the opportunity of collective efforts and cooperation on institutional basis that has been unfolded with the creation of SAARC has to be seized for promotion of welfare of the people of the region, reports BSS.

Speaking at a banquet hosted by King Jigme Singhe Wangchuck in honour of him at the Royal Banquet Hall here, the President said the SAARC has dawned a new hope and generated enthusiasm in the people of South Asian countries.

He said the gains that have already been achieved through the implementation of the co-operative programmes under the purview of SAARC needed to be consolidated.

President Ershad expressed his thanks for conferring on him the chairmanship of SAARC and said "between now and November when we will meet again in India it will be my endeavour to translate into reality the decisions that we had collectively taken in Dhaka".

He said "It is in furtherance of this objective and as an expression of our unflinching commitment to SAARC that I avail the opportunity of paying visits to all SAARC countries within the next few weeks".

The President said in today's world the challenge of social and economic development is such that no nation can face it alone. It is so enormous that individual nations find it difficult, if not impossible, to even rise to a level, in which the process of

development can become self-sustaining, he said adding: we thus have to face this collectively at regional and international planes and in an environment of peace and stability, as peace and development are closely interlinked.

President Ershad said, an awareness of these twin realities led seven countries of South Asian region to form in Dhaka last December the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

He said maintenance of these cooperation with our neighbours is a fundamental priority of Bangladesh's foreign policy. In this context he said the ties that bind the peoples of Bangladesh and Bhutan are many.

## BILATERAL LINKS

Tracing the bilateral links between Bangladesh and Bhutan established by such spiritual luminaries as the Buddhist priest Padma Sambhaba as also the trading community who traversed rugged mountains and in hospitable plateaus to bring the two nations closer centuries back the President said "to our deep satisfaction ever since the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent nation these ties and links have been reinforced and relations are steadily growing both in content and dimension".

President Ershad said both Bangladesh and Bhutan seek and cherish peace adhere to a Non-Aligned foreign policy, believe in principles of sovereign equality territorial integrity, non-use of force, peaceful settlement of disputes and non-interference in internal affairs.

Violation of these principles and of peace anywhere causes us great concern, he said and mentioned about the current international economic situation which he observed has not only seriously affected the development prospect of the developing countries but also "perturbs us deeply".

The President said the developing countries and the least developed ones among them have been bearing the main brunt of the economic problems affecting the world today. It is precisely to redress this situation that we are striving so hard for the creation of the new international economic order, he said.

President Ershad lauded the leadership of King Jigme Singhe Wangchuck for significant economic and social progress of his country and said the sagacity and maturity of his policy in accomplishing development and economic growth without abandoning the firm roots of Bhutanese way of life and tradition have won universal admiration.

Turning to the home front he said as a developing country Bangladesh is faced with problems of poverty and underdevelopment. In our endeavour for economic uplift our prime objective is to improve the standard of living of our people, he said.

The President said to this end in view we have initiated administrative and other reforms to rebuild our society on a more humane and just basis so that it is capable of meeting the rising expectations of our people.

President Ershad said his government has been making relent-



less and earnest efforts to create an economically strong, stable and self-reliant Bangladesh. "Our recent Parliamentary elections which ensures a meaningful participation of our people in the national development process will surely contribute to

the realisation of this objective. The state banquet was attended among others by Begum Raushan Ershad Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury members of Bangladesh delegation members of Bhutanese Royal family and ministers.

#### 4 June Talks, Accords

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Jun 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

THIMPHU, June 4:—President Hussain Muhammad Ershad and King Jigme Singye Wangchuck of Bhutan here today reviewed the activities and achievements of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), reports BSS.

The President and the King who met exclusively for about 45 minutes expressed their satisfaction at the progress of cooperation among the seven SAARC nations.

SAARC member countries are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

The two leaders, who met in the Throne Room of the Tashichhodzong the Secretariat of the Royal Bhutan Government, also exchanged views of international and regional issues of common concern and bilateral matters.

While President Ershad and King Jigme Singye Wangchuck were having exclusive talks, Bangladesh official delegation led by Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury and Bhutanese delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lyonpo Dawa Tshering held talks separately in a friendly atmosphere of complete understanding.

In his opening remarks, the Bhutanese Foreign Minister observed that there is a similarity of views between the two countries on regional and international issues.

He commended the role of Bangladesh in various international fora in expressing the views of the Third World countries especially those of the least developed ones.

He expressed his happiness at the assistance extended by Bangladesh in providing educational facilities to the students of Bhutan as his country gives priority to the development of human resources.

Thanking the government of Bhutan for the warm and generous hospitality extended to President Ershad and his entourage, Bangladesh Foreign Minister appreciated the role played by Bhutan in SAARC and particularly its contribution.

Both sides were of the view that work should start on the question of setting up a SAARC Secretariat so that it could be considered in the next meeting of the standing committee of the Foreign Ministers and an appropriate recommendation be made in the next SAARC summit due in India later this year.

Both Foreign Ministers noted with satisfaction that reaction to formation of SAARC had been favourable all over the world and that various international organisations had shown interest in providing aid to regional projects. Both sides agreed that possibilities of cooperation between SAARC and other bodies for regional cooperation could be explored.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister made a note of what he termed as "social and economic progress" made by Bhutan under the dynamic leadership of the King. He assured the Bhutanese side of continued co-operation in all possible fields, including education and training.

The two sides agreed that a Bangladesh-Bhutan Joint Commission may be set up in due course to co-ordinate cooperation between the two countries. Bangladesh Foreign Minister extended an invitation to his Bhutanese counterpart to visit Bangladesh at a time convenient to him.

#### 2 accords signed

Bangladesh and Bhutan today signed two separate agreements on cultural and information exchange and on air services between the two countries.

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury and the Bhutanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lyonpo Dawa Tshering signed the agreements on behalf of their respective governments.

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad and King Jigme Singye Wangchuck were present at the signing ceremony held at the Tashichhodzong, the Secretariat building of the government of Bhutan.

Signing ceremony over, the President and Begum Raushan Ershad witnessed a cultural programme arranged by the special commission for cultural affairs in honour of the distinguished guests from Bangladesh.

The cultural programme was also attended among others by King Wangchuck, members of the royal family and members of the presidential entourage.

The function, depicting the cultural heritage of Bhutanese people, was held at the courtyard of the Tashichhodzong.

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad and Begum Raushan Ershad leave here tomorrow morning for Paro, an ancient city, about 50 kilometres from here, on a days visit.

They will be accompanied by their host King Jigme Singye Wangchuck.

During his stay in Paro, President Ershad will witness an archery match and visit the national museum.

The President leaves for home from Paro on June 6 morning.

## Joint Communique Text

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Jun 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Bangladesh and Bhutan on Friday noted with satisfaction that the successful launching of the SAARC had elicited a very positive response from other countries and international and regional organisations, reports BSS.

In a joint communique issued simultaneously on Friday night from Dhaka and Thimphu at the conclusion of the four-day state visit of President Hussain Muhammad Ershad to Bhutan, the two leaders observed the SAARC activities were progressing satisfactorily in all areas of cooperation.

They noted in particular the outcome of the successful ministerial meetings on international economic issues and women in development that were held in Islamabad and Shillong in April and May this year.

The leaders emphasised that the momentum of SAARC activities must be maintained.

Following is the full text of the communique: At the invitation of His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, King of Bhutan. His Excellency Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, accompanied by Begum Raushan Ershad paid a state visit to the Kingdom of Bhutan from June 3 to 6 1986.

His Excellency the President of Bangladesh and the members of his entourage were accorded a warm welcome during the visit reflecting the close and friendly relations existing between the two neighbouring countries and their peoples.

His Excellency the President of Bangladesh and Begum Ershad offered scarves at the National Memorial Chorten of his late Majesty King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck in Thimphu.

His Majesty the King of Bhutan and His Excellency the President of Bangladesh exchanged views on wide ranging subjects covering bilateral relations, matters relating to the South Asian Regional Cooperation and international economic and political

issues. The discussions were held in an atmosphere of friendship, cordiality and mutual understanding which characterise the existing relations between Bhutan and Bangladesh.

The two leaders reviewed the current international situation and noted with concern the escalation of tension which has endangered international peace and security. They reaffirmed the commitment of their governments to the UN charter, the principles and objectives to the Non-aligned Movement and the charter of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. They underscored the importance of respecting the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of states, inviolability of frontiers, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states non-use of force and peaceful settlement of disputes for conducting relations among states.

Expressing concern at the situation in Afghanistan and Kampuchea, the two leaders called for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all foreign troops and for full respect of the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and the non-aligned status of these countries. They called for creation of conditions to enable the peoples of the two countries to determine their own destiny free from outside interference and intervention. In this context, they welcomed the UN sponsored proximity talks on Afghanistan to resolve the problem.

The two leaders reviewed the current situation in West Asia and reiterated that a comprehensive just and durable solution of the problem can only be achieved on the basis of complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab lands including the holy city of Jerusalem and the restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to have a state of their own in their homeland under the leadership of the PLO. They also condemned Israeli attack on PLO headquarters in Tunis and Israeli interference in Lebanon obstructing the restoration of full sovereignty of Lebanon.

The two leaders expressed their deep anguish over the continuing Iraq-Iran war which is

causing heavy toll of life and property. They appealed to them for an immediate end to the war and reaffirmed their support to all efforts in this direction.

Reviewing the situation in southern Africa, the two leaders reaffirmed their continued support for the inalienable rights of the people of Namibia to achieve independence in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. They expressed their continued solidarity with the heroic Namibian people in their legitimate struggle under the leadership of SWAPO, their sole and authentic representative. They also rejected the linkage of the question of Namibia to any issues.

The two leaders condemned the policy of apartheid practised by the Pretoria regime and renewed their firm support to the oppressed people of South Africa in their heroic struggle for political, economic and social emancipation. They also condemned the recent acts of aggression committed by South Africa against the frontline and other neighbouring states.

The two leaders noted that tension in the Indian Ocean area was increasing because of great power rivalry. They reiterated their support for the 1971 UN declaration on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and called for an early convening of the conference on the Indian Ocean scheduled to be held in Colombo.

They reviewed the current global economic situation and called for speedy implementation of the special measures already agreed upon by the international community in favour of the Least Developed Countries. Observing that the structural disequilibrium in the system of world economic relations was largely responsible for the deteriorating economic situation, they reaffirmed their commitment to the establishment of the new international economic order. They also called for intensifying efforts for South-South Cooperation.

The two leaders recalled the historic first SAARC summit in Dhaka in December 1985. They noted with satisfaction that the successful launching of SAARC had elicited a very positive res-

ponse from other countries and international and regional organisations. They observed that SAARC activities were progressing satisfactorily in all areas of cooperation and in particular noted the outcome of the successful ministerial meetings on international economic issues and women in development that were held in Islamabad and Shillong in April and May this year. The leaders emphasised that the momentum of SAARC activities must be maintained.

The two leaders were of the view that once the secretariat was established and became functional, there would be even quicker and further development of SAARC activities, they reaffirmed their conviction that SAARC would contribute significantly to the creation of conditions conducive to peace, progress and prosperity in the region.

The two leaders reviewed the entire range of bilateral relations between the two countries and expressed satisfaction at its steady growth both in content and dimension. Among many potential areas they felt that bilateral trade held considerable scope for mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.

They expressed satisfaction that an air services agreement and an agreement on cultural cooperation were signed between the two governments during the current visit of his Excellency the President of Bangladesh to Bhutan. They expressed the view that the signing of these agreements would greatly contribute to the promotion of mutually beneficial cooperation between their peoples. They agreed that the two governments would take necessary follow-up measures for the implementation of the agreements.

His Excellency the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh conveyed his thanks to His Majesty the King of Bhutan for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to him and the members of his entourage during their visit to Bhutan.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1896

ERSHAD SENDS MESSAGE ON WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Jun 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad has reaffirmed his country's dedication to a healthier environment to ensure a better and more peaceful abode for mankind, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of the 14th anniversary of the World Environment Day the President said the observance of the World Environment Day this year has special significance as it coincides with that of the International Year of Peace and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has chosen "environment and peace" as its theme.

He said "world peace can be attained not only in a political environment free from political hazards, it also requires a physical environment free from ecological imbalance".

The President said as environment pollution transcends national barriers preservation of a safe environment is the collective responsibility of all.

"Bangladesh strongly believes that a concerted and rational approach to this serious human problem will help preserve the world environment for safe living of mankind. We have linked up the environmental issues with the overall economic development strategy and are making all-out efforts to preserve environment for all by promoting a sense of awareness among the people", he added.

In a separate message, K. M. Aminul Islam, Minister for Local

Government and Co-operatives, renewed his country's pledge to continue efforts for better environment for its people and for all mankind.

He said that all industrial units have been asked to take appropriate measures in three years time for maintaining surrounding environment free from all pollution. No new industrial units would be permitted to operate if anti-pollution measures were not adopted from the beginning, he added.

The Minister stressed the need for co-operative and collaborative efforts both at regional and international levels for tackling environmental problems effectively.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1896

BRIEFS

**VIETNAMESE SCIENTISTS TEAM**--The 7-member scientists team headed by Dr Nguyen Dang, Vice-Minister for Agriculture, Socialist Republic of Vietnam left yesterday after a 4-day study visit, reports BSS. During their stay the team visited different national Agricultural research institutes. Department of Agricultural Extension and Bangladesh Agricultural University. According to a press release issued by BARC the team took keen interest about our research system and exchanged ideas for building up a new research system for their country (Vietnam). The press release said the team expressed desire for collaboration with various activities in the field of agricultural research and development. Possibilities of exchange of scientists, and scientific information was favoured by the leader of the Vietnamese study team. The team was seen off at Zia Airport by Dr Ekramul Ahsan chairman, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 6 Jun 86 p 8] /9274

**ETHIOPIAN AIR TALKS**--Bangladesh and Ethiopia yesterday initialled agreed minutes aimed at concluding an air services agreement between Dhaka and Addis Ababa, reports BSS. The agreed minutes were signed by Mr. Noor Mohammad, Joint Secretary, Civil Aviation and Tourism Division and Mr. Lulseged Filfilu, leader of the visiting Ethiopian aviation delegation at the end of two-day talks. Both the designated airlines will meet soon to discuss matters relating to traffic rights, frequency, route schedule and type of aircraft to be used, official sources said. The two sides are expected to meet within the next 12 months to finalise the details of the agreement. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 26 May 86 p 1] /9274

**NEW POLITICAL PARTY**--Leaders and workers of now defunct 18-point implementation council Janadal and Bangladesh Krishak Parishad in a joint meeting Monday formed a new political party under the name and style Bangladesh Peoples Party. A press release said the newly-formed Bangladesh Peoples Party has expressed solidarity with the five-point movement led by BNP Chief and Seven-Party Alliance leader Begum Khaleda Zia and vowed to support the joint action programme for realisation of 5-point demand. The meeting also formed a 101 member convening committee with Mr M. M. Abbasuddin as Convenor. The meeting in a resolution termed May 7 polls as farcical and demanded cancellation of the results of May 7 polls and a fresh parliamentary election on the basis of five point demand under a neutral caretaker government. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 14 May 86 p 3] /9274



**AID FROM ROK**—Mr Ki An Chang, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea met Mr Meshbahuddin Ahmed Bablu, Deputy Minister for Industries at his office in Dhaka on Wednesday, reports BSS. According to a PID handout they discussed matters relating to the industrial development of Bangladesh. The Ambassador assured the Deputy Minister of continued Korean assistance in different industrial projects of the country. They also discussed about the forthcoming visit of Korean Foreign Minister to Bangladesh and the possibility of signing industrial agreements between the two governments. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 29 May 86 p 8] /9274

**WHEAT FROM AUSTRALIA**—Australia will provide Bangladesh with 50,000 metric tons of wheat under its 1985-86 Food Aid Programme, according to an official sources in Dhaka, reports BSS. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) to this effect was signed in Dhaka on Thursday between the two countries. The FOB value of the wheat is approximately Australian dollars 9.5 million (about Taka 21 crore) which will be available to Bangladesh in the form of grant. The wheat will be shipped to Bangladesh within May-June, 1986. Since the Liberation of Bangladesh Australian food aid to the country has totalled 960,166 metric tons, Australia had also extended valuable economic assistance for implementation of development projects. Important projects under implementation with Australian assistance include sugar industries project. Australia has also been providing technical assistance for training of Bangladesh personnel in Australia and in third countries. [Excerpts] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 16 May 86 p 8] /9274

**DHAKA-SINGAPORE ACCORD**—Singapore, May 31--Bangladesh and Singapore have signed a new air services agreement allowing both countries to operate two services a week by their respective airlines, the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) said today, reports AFP. The revised agreement followed two days of talks on Friday and Saturday by representatives of the two governments. A CAAS statement said that Singapore Airlines and Biman-Bangladesh airlines could operate two wide bodied services a week with provision for a third. Both the airlines will be allowed to carry passengers and freight between Singapore and Dhaka via any two intermediate cities and to any four cities beyond. Under the previous agreement both the airlines were allowed to operate only one service a week with limited rights to carry passengers and freight only between Singapore and Dhaka. Biman has been operating a weekly flight to Singapore since April 1977 but SIA did not take up its option to fly to Dhaka. The statement added that with the conclusion of the new agreement SIA may consider operating to Dhaka. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Jun 86 p 1] /9274

**DENATIONALIZATION MOVE SCORED**--Sramik Karmachari Oikkya Parishad (SKOP) in a meeting on Friday reiterated its determination to continue the movement for realisation of five-point demand and criticised those who betrayed the people. It also urged the Government to implement the agreement signed with the representatives of the SKOP. Presided over by Mr. Iskander Ali President Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal the leaders of 11 of the 16 components attended the convention of SKOP National Union. Leaders of 29 craft federations and national unions participated it, according to a written statement of SKOP. The meeting adopted a declaration which urged the Government to stop the move of denationalisation of banks, insurance and BADC including the Railway. It also

urged the Government for stoppage of retrenchment in different industries and reinstatement of those retrenched in banks and BTMC. Read out by Mr. Golam Mohiuddin, General Secretary of Bangladesh Sramik Federation the meeting also demanded minimum national wages for employees of all industries including those in the private sectors. [Excerpt] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 May 86 pp 1, 8] /9274

CSO: 4600/1897

## PAPERS REPORT CHANGES IN KARNATAKA CABINET

## Cabinet Size Reduced

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 30 Jun 86 p 1

[Text]

BANGALORE, June 29.—In a surprise move, the Karnataka Chief Minister, Mr Rama Krishna Hegde, dropped 17 of the 29 Ministers while reconstituting his Ministry today, report PTI and UNI. Those dropped included three Cabinet Ministers—Mr M. Raghupathy, Mr H. L. Thimme Gowda and Mr C. Byregowda—and all but one of the 15 Ministers of State.

Mr Hegde added three new faces, two Cabinet Ministers — Mr H. T. Krishnappa and Mr K. M. Krishna Reddy — and one Minister of State Mr Basawaraj Patil. Anwar, who will be sworn in tomorrow by the Governor, Mr A. N. Banerjee.

The reconstituted Ministry will now have 16 Ministers — 14 of Cabinet rank and two Ministers of State — against the earlier strength of 30, including the Chief Minister.

Mr Hegde called on the Governor in the evening and was with him for about an hour. A Raj Bhavan communique later said the resignations of three Cabinet Ministers and 14 Ministers of State, as recommended by the Chief Minister, had been accepted.

The communique said Mr H. T. Krishnappa and Mr K. M. Krishna Reddy had been appointed Cabinet Ministers and Mr Anwar, Minister of State.

The lone Minister of State spared by Mr Hegde was Mr C. Veeranna, who is in charge of small savings.

All the 29 Ministers had submitted their resignations to Mr Hegde to enable him to reconstitute the Ministry following a demand from 93 MLAs.

Before Mr Hegde called on the

Governor, the entire group of Ministers of State met him and opted out of the new Council of Ministers to take up party work in view of the ensuing zilla parishad elections, Mr Jeevaraj Alva, Minister for Information, told reporters.

Political circles predicted that another reshuffle was imminent since the size of the Ministry was too small and there were only two Ministers of State.

Mr Alva said the Ministers expressed full faith in Mr Hegde's leadership and said they were willing to leave the task of governance to their senior colleagues.

Their move was not a "protest", nor were they acting in a concerted manner, Mr Alva said.

The dropped Ministers of State are: Messrs B. A. Jivijaya (Forest), Mr M. P. Prakash (Agriculture), P. G. R. Sindhia (Transport), Jeevaraj Alva (Information), Ramesh Jigajinigi (Excise), B. R. Yavagal (Rural Development), Siddaramalah (Animal Husbandry), D. B. Inamdar (Health), B. Somashekhar (Horticulture), Y. K. Ramalah (Sericulture), H. G. Govinde Gowda (Primary Education), R. V. Deshpande (Small Scale Industries), Basawaraj Patil Attur (Minor Irrigation) and A. Pushpavathi (Social Welfare).

### Three New Ministers

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Jul 86 p 6

[Text]

**Bangalore, June 30** — In an atmosphere of suspense, speculation and total frustration in the Janata ranks, particularly the lower level partymen, Chief Minister Ramakrishna Hegde inducted three new faces into his Ministry.

The swearing-in ceremony for the three ministers — two of Cabinet rank and one Minister of State — took place in a solemn and sombre atmosphere which was bereft of the usual pomp and show which had come to be associated with Janata functioning in the State since it came to power in 1983 dislodging the Congress.

Those who were inducted today were Mr H T Krishnappa and Mr K M Krishna Reddy (cabinet rank) and Mr Basavaraj Patil Anwari (Minister of State).

Despite the restricted invitations, a large crowd of Janata partymen had gathered at the swearing-in ceremony with a last-minute expectation that Mr Hegde might have included some more names to his overnight list which he had submitted to the Governor.

Among the crowd were quite a few ministers who were dropped. All three Cabinet Ministers, Health Minister H L Thimma Gowda, Education Minister M Raghupathy who was so far considered as a close confidante of Mr

Hegde and Mr C Byre Gowda, of Moily-tape fame, were present but were seated in the last row in the Durbar Hall of Raj Bhavan where the ceremony took.

The cabinet ministers and some others were all tight-lipped and did not answer the queries from newsmen. But it was obvious that they were not happy with the happenings.

The conclave of junior Ministers who were dropped enmasse by Mr Hegde yesterday though had given an impression of a revolt of some kind are presently keeping their fingers crossed and perhaps waiting for a cue from the Chief Minister as what kind of party work they would be asked to do which they themselves had "volunteered" for and which Mr Hegde said today that he would assign to them.

It is, however, felt here that neither everyone dropped from the Ministry is capable of doing any worthwhile party work nor such a large body of Ministers can be given meaningful party work to do.

The overall feeling among the partymen, however, is one of anger, disappointment and frustration. Anger because Mr Hegde has included two Congress defectors, Mr H T Krishnappa and Mr Basavaraj Patil Anwari; Disappointment because so

many of the Ministers dropped; and Frustration because those who had aspired to be included were given a cold shoulder.

Mr Hegde himself, however, interpreted the whole exercise "neither as a stunt nor a political game" but "drafting of young, able energetic, and efficient men with administrative experience for party work".

Briefing newsmen after the swearing-in ceremony and an informal cabinet meeting, Mr Hegde claimed that the "reconstruction" of his cabinet was "smooth and there was no lobbying, no delegations, no canvassing or no pestering the Chief Minister and this showed "the character of the party".

Mr Hegde also claimed that no minister was dropped by him on the charges of "inefficiency and arrogance which was attributed to some unknown ministers". He was obviously referring to the charges made against some Ministers by the "group of 93" MLAs whose memorandum had culminated in the present "restructuring" of the Ministry.

Asked whether he would expand his cabinet by including new junior ministers from the large number of MLA's his party has in the Assembly, Mr Hegde did not rule out the possibility.

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CSO: 4600/1923

## PAPERS REPORT ON ACCORD WITH MIZO NATIONAL FRONT

Accord Signed 30 June

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Jul 86 p 1

[Text]

**T**he Centre Monday night concluded the much-awaited accord with Mizo National Front leader Laldenga to put to end 25 years of secessionist insurgency and bring the far-eastern State into the national mainstream.

The accord was signed by retiring Union Home Secretary R D Pradhan and Mizoram Chief Secretary Lalkhama with a one-time army non-commissioned officer whose disgruntlement with the 1959-60 famine relief operations in the Lushai Hills led him to form the secessionist MNF organisation.

Though the accord in effect meant peaceful resolution of one of the thorniest problems in the far-eastern region bordering China and Burma, neither Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi nor Home Minister Buta Singh was present when the five-page "memorandum of settlement" was signed.

Under the accord, Mr Laldenga, who had spent better part of the last 25 years trying to secure sophisticated weapons and funds for the MNF, agreed to unconditional surrender of arms and weapons by the rebels under central supervision, and calling off of the secessionist movement.

He agreed to amend the "constitution" of the MNF, dropping its separatist form, and abjure violence

and generally help the process of restoration of normalcy in the trouble-torn region. After amendment, the ban on the MNF would be lifted and the organisation would become a "legitimate" political party within the constitutional framework.

The Centre, on its part, agreed to accord full statehood to Mizoram, with a 40-member Legislative Assembly, elections to which would be held after restoration of normalcy. The necessary administrative and legislative measures, including amendment of the Constitution, would be taken presumably in the forthcoming Parliament session.

The Centre has also agreed to take necessary steps for resettlement and rehabilitation of the underground Mizo rebels, expedite compensation to heirs and dependents of those killed and for loss of crop and damage to buildings since disturbances began in 1966.

The Centre offered Mizoram a high court and a state university, but made no commitment on the MNF's demand for unification of Mizo-inhabited areas of other States with Mizoram. The Centre merely pointed out to Mr Laldenga that Article three of the Constitution prescribed the procedure in this regard and left the issue open-ended.

Though the accord would put to an end the insurgency, the accord made clear that "inner line" regulations now in force would not be

amended or repealed. It also provided that the MNF would not extend any support to Tribal National Volunteers of Tripura (TNV), People's Liberation Army of Manipur (PLA) and other such secessionist groups in terms of training, supply of arms or protection.

After Mizoram attains statehood, the Centre would provide funds to cover the revenue gap for the year, and extend assistance as in case of special category States to sustain approved Plan outlays.

The accord, which came five days after the MNF had signed a formal agreement with the Congress for party-to-party contacts, was "made possible because of the leadership of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi", an overwhelmed Laldenga said in a TV statement.

Mr Laldenga, who will head an interim government of Mizoram until elections to the Assembly are held, also paid tributes to the initiative of Indira Gandhi for peaceful resolution of the problem. "I would like to recall all that she has done for us", he said.

The signing of the accord was a fitting finale to a distinguished 33-year service of Home Secretary R D Pradhan, who laid down office on Monday. He expressed happiness at the settlement, "the last thing I am doing on my last day in office".

Earlier in the morning, Mr Rajiv Gandhi held detailed discussions with Mr Buta Singh and Mr Pradhan, and later in the evening



## KERALA CPI-M LEADER EXPELLED FROM PARTY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 24 Jun 86 p 7

[Text]

TRIVANDRUM, June 25:

**T**HE Kerala committee of the CPM has decided to expel Mr. M. V. Raghavan, one of its senior leaders, from the party.

Mr. Raghavan was secretary of the CPM legislature party until he was suspended in January for one year for opposing the party's policy of having no truck with "communal" parties such as the Indian Union Muslim League and the Kerala Congress and for indulging in groupism.

The expulsion of Mr. Raghavan, who wields influence in a fairly large section of youth and students, especially in the Malabar region, is a major development in the history of the party.

The decision to remove him was taken unanimously by the state committee after a two-day session which ended today. It was attended by four politburo members — Mr. E. M. S. Namboodiripad (party general secretary), Mr. E. Balanandan, Mr. M. Basavapunniah and Mr. V. S. Achutanandan, secretary of the state unit.

In a long statement, the committee held Mr. Raghavan guilty of "naked violation" of the party's policies, as reflected in his reply to the charge-sheet issued to him on May 28.

It recalled that after suspension, Mr. Raghavan was given an opportunity to correct himself. However, reports received from various district units showed that he continued to indulge in groupism. He also gave an interview to a Malayalam daily, in which he made many statements challenging the party's policy.

In his reply, dated June 10, Mr. Raghavan said, "You are trying to impose on the party the same old revisionist policy which you once criticised. Only by resisting and defeating it can the party be formed into a revolutionary party with mass backing."

**PARTY WRONG**

The committee noted that what Mr. Raghavan had condemned as "old revisionist policy" was none other than the policy finalised at the party Congress in Calcutta. "Never before has there been anyone in the CPM who has sought to establish in this brazen manner that the entire party was wrong and that he alone is right."

It said Mr. Raghavan's reply clearly showed what alternative he had in mind. For instance, he had stated: "When issues like shariat are raised, Muslim fundamentalists will dub us anti-religious and try to isolate us from the Muslim masses. I had warned that the party can go forward only if this is taken into account. The result of ignoring the warning was that it led to unity among Muslim fundamentalists. The communist movement has never grown as an anti-religious movement anywhere in the world ... And ours is not an anti-religious movement."

The remark showed that Mr. Raghavan had "swallowed" the outcry of the fundamentalists that shariat reforms were supported by progressive elements. The committee asked, "If this move to enlist the League's support in the name of anti-Congressism is not parliamentary opportunism and surrender to communal politics, what else is it?"

The committee said the reason for the decision of the erstwhile All-India Muslim League to quit the Left Democratic Front and merge itself with the IUMML was that the CPM failed to lend its support to the "abhorrent" practices advocated in the name of protecting the shariat.

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CSO: 4600/1916

followed up with another round of talks with them. Mr Laldenga also called on Mr Gandhi late in the evening. After last-minute touches, the accord was initialled at 9.15 p.m.

Though Mr Gandhi was not present at the signing ceremony, it was announced that he would pay a visit to Mizoram on 9 July, his first ever visit to the far-eastern state, which is at present a Union Territory.

## Interview With Laldenga

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 30 Jun 86 p 6

[Text]

**Q:** Why did you sign a "political settlement" with the Congress(I) before signing the main accord?

**A:** It was decided that some political arrangement for the interim period has to be made, and the Mizo National Front (MNF) will be part of that. So after a number of meetings with the Congress(I) high command we agreed to form a coalition government headed by me. My party and the Congress(I) felt that there was no hitch on either side for this political arrangement.

**Q:** But you could also have signed the political settlement after the main accord?

**A:** It is wrong to say that it was a political settlement. In fact it is an arrangement between the Congress(I) and the MNF for the interim period. The formalities for this type of arrangement had to be finalised before the main accord, so that the Mizo people have an idea in advance about the interim government. So the political settlement was signed earlier.

**Q:** What are the main features of this arrangement?

**A:** I will be chief minister and Mr Lalthanhawla, the present chief minister, would be deputy chief minister. Besides this, the MNF will have three ministers and the Congress(I) will have four. It will be a nine-member cabinet. There is an agreement between the MNF and Congress(I) on this. There are a few suggestions and other points in the arrangement, but at the moment I cannot tell you all

those.

**Q:** Who would be the other three ministers from the MNF to join your cabinet?

**A:** At the moment it is very difficult to say, although I have discussed the matter with my colleagues. But unless all my underground men come over, I cannot decide on who would be the ministers. At present it is very difficult to contact all of them as they are in the jungles. There is no direct way to communicate with them. But I can assure you that there will not be any problem in choosing three MNF men for my cabinet.

**Q:** Are you confident that all the rebels of the Mizo National Army (MNA) will lay down their arms? That there would not be any problem from any section of the MNA or the MNF?

**A:** I will request you to please not call them rebels. Even the government does not call them rebels. They are underground people and I am 100 per cent sure that everyone will lay down their arms.

**Q:** By 'rebels' I did not mean the underground MNF or MNA people. I meant that section of the MNA who are allegedly against the accord. Will they lay down their arms or not? Particularly a man like Mr Lalrawana?

**A:** It is a blunt lie to say that a section of the MNA is against the accord. Mr Lalrawana is my confidant. I don't know why people spread such rumours about him. We are a disciplined people and when I give a call to lay down arms

everyone will follow my instructions. If an Army commander gives any order will his jawans disobey? The MNF and the MNA will never do so.

**Q:** Do you think Mr Lalthanhawla has sacrificed his position for the sake of the accord?

**A:** Yes, there is no doubt he has sacrificed a lot, but it was his pledge before the Mizo people that for permanent peace in Mizoram he will do whatever will be asked by of him by his party high command. He obeyed the orders.

**Q:** What role did he play in the finalisation of the accord?

**A:** Mr Lalthanhawla played a very significant role, and as the chief minister of Mizoram he was consulted a number of times by the Union home ministry as well as by the Congress(I) high command.

**Q:** What role did Mr Lalduhama, former Mizoram PCC(I) president, play?

**A:** Mr Lalduhama played a very important role. It was he who went to London in 1984 and discussed with me the need for an agreement with the Centre for permanent peace. He was very active initially. He was instrumental to some extent in finalising the accord. Then, I don't know what happened but it is true that Mr Lalduhama "accused" him of delaying the accord.

**Q:** Why did the accord take so long to materialise? The negotiations started 10 years ago, in 1976.

**A:** It is a long history. I do not really want to repeat it. In 1976, when negotiations

started, we would have reached the final settlement, but a few bureaucrats interpreted the initial negotiations in their own way. They wanted that we should succumb to their pressures. So the talks broke down. In December 1976, Mr Om Mehta, the then Union home minister, again started negotiations and he was really serious about a final settlement but by the time talks reached a crucial phase, elections were announced and the Congress was thrown out of power.

During the Janata regime, I spoke to Mr Morarji Desai and the then Union home minister, Mr Charan Singh, and both assured me about the finalisation of the accord. But there were a few problems again as the then government in Mizoram was not very interested in a settlement and the government in Delhi was also in trouble due to factional fighting. The Centre could not concentrate on the problems of Mizoram. In 1979, I was arrested and put in jail.

In 1980, when the Congress(I) government came to power I was again called for negotiations. At that time the Mizoram government led by Brig. T. Sailo put its foot down. They refused to step down for the wider interest of the Mizo people. In 1981, Mrs Gandhi told Parliament in reply to a question from Mr Subramaniam Swamy that the Congress(I) could not ask a government which was not its own to step down. In early 1982, talks finally broke down and I was asked to leave the country. In 1984, talks were again resumed and now it is in the final stages.

*Q: But tell me, why did it take 20 months this time? We have been hearing since early last year that the accord will be signed soon.*

*A: Unfortunately the day I wanted to meet Mrs Gandhi, she was assassinated. Early last year, talks were resumed with Mr G. Parthasarathy, the chairman of the policy planning committee in the ministry of external affairs, and it was almost in its final stages but due to some problems in the Mizoram Congress(I), it could not be finalised. In fact I would*

*have signed the accord in July last year. Then I was supposed to sign the accord in December but everytime a few things came in between and the accord could not be signed.*

*Q: Did you expect the accord to be signed in June?*

*A: In fact I expected that the accord would be signed in March when I came back from London. But it was delayed due to certain reasons.*

*Q: Can you name the people who put hurdles in the way of the finalisation of the accord?*

*A: Now that the accord is going to be signed, I don't want to reveal the names of all those people who put hurdles in the way. It will not be fair on my part.*

*Q: Now that the insurgency is going to end and the MNF guerrillas are going to come overground, could you name the countries which helped the MNF with funds and arms?*

*A: Certainly many countries helped us but I should not reveal the names. After all, running such an underground government and continuing the insurgency was not a joke. I was not running an ordnance factory and we were only surviving with the help of some countries.*

*Q: Can we say that "foreign powers" were involved in the insurgency problem in Mizoram?*

*A: Yes, why not? Certainly certain countries which wanted to destabilise India were helping us. And in that context "foreign powers" has the right connotation.*

*Q: There is an allegation that the MNF was helping the TNV with arms. Now that the MNF people are coming overground, what would be the fate of the Tripura National Volunteers (TNV)?*

*A: There is no doubt that in the past we helped the TNV. In fact we gave them guerrilla training. One of their leaders once came to Delhi and met me but when we resumed serious negotiations with the Centre for the finalisation of the accord, we stopped all aid to the TNV. Now it is upto them to decide their future.*

*Q: Did you ever imagine that you would become the chief minister of Mizoram?*

*A: Truly speaking, I never*

*thought so. I spent most of the time in the jungles where one cannot think of becoming the chief minister. In fact even when negotiations started early last year, I never thought I would become the chief minister. The thought just came at the final stage of the accord and with the consent of my men, I accepted the proposal.*

*Q: How does it feel like being the chief minister now?*

*A: I have not taken over as the chief minister as yet but I can say that the task is difficult. I have to run the government with the advice of the Congress(I) as it will be my partner.*

*Q: How long will this coalition government run?*

*A: Till fresh elections are held. And elections will be held within six months after my takeover.*

*Q: Do you think the MNF will merge with the Congress(I) in future?*

*A: At this moment it is difficult to answer this question. I cannot say yes or no. Only time will tell.*

*Q: Do you think the Congress(I) and the MNF will contest the next elections jointly?*

*A: I cannot say anything but it is certain that the MNF will come to power after the next elections. At least once it will come to power. And there are intelligence reports that the Mizo people want to vote for the MNF. There is no doubt that we will win the elections. We have very good support from the masses in Mizoram. In fact in the last elections, the Congress(I) won the elections because of our help and pledged for permanent peace in Mizoram.*

*Q: A lot of people, including a few Opposition leaders, have some reservations about the Mizoram accord as they feel that the Centre should not have signed the accord with a man like you who was underground. They feel it will encourage terrorist and extremist elements. What is your reaction to this?*

*A: No doubt I was underground but when everything has been decided under the Constitution of India and we have decided to lead a normal life and to work for the country, then the people should not have any objections to this.*

The Opposition leaders have reservations on many issues. One cannot do anything about it.

*Q: Has your name been registered in the voters' list?*

A: No, how is that possible? My party is outlawed.

*Q: Then what is your status now? Have you taken British citizenship?*

A: No, I have not taken British citizenship. I can only say that at present I have an Indian passport.

*Q: The MNF has hardly 600 committed members. How will you organise your party for the coming elections?*

A: My party is outlawed at the moment, it is banned. First it has to be legalised and immediately after that we will organise our party.

*Q: When are you planning to go to Aizawl?*

A: I don't know. If the accord is signed then I have to talk to the Prime Minister and take his advice.

*Q: Are you planning to go to London before formally taking over as the chief minister?*

A: I have not made any plans, it again depends on the advice of the Prime Minister.

*Q: When are you expecting your underground people to lay down arms?*

A: Within four weeks of the signing of the accord.

*Q: Under the accord, will Mizoram get a special status like Nagaland?*

A: Yes, it is going to be a special category state, under Article 371 of the Constitution.

*Q: What about the Chakma district council, will it be scrapped?*

A: At the moment we have not finalised anything about the Chakma district council, although I wanted it to be scrapped. In my point of view, it is wrong to give autonomy to illegal migrants. But we will decide later on this issue.

*Q: Do you see any conflict with the Centre in the future?*

A: No, I cannot think of conflict with the Centre. In fact I will work with the help of the Centre. I have to trust in the central government. After 20 years of armed conflict, trust is not an easy thing. If you train boys to kill, then in times of peace we have to take it out from their minds and these things I will have to work out with the government in confidence. After the disturbed conditions that have prevailed for 20 years, there has been a marked tendency towards violence and corruption. I have to undo this. And for that I need the Centre's help. I will need the help of the Opposition parties too. What I mean is that I will have a close association with the Centre.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1924

IRAN

IRNA CITES LARIJANI ON ZIMBABWE AID, OTHER MATTERS

LD111718 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 11 Jul 86

/Text/ Harare, 11 Jul, IRNA--Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for International and Economic Affairs Mohammad-Javad Larijani said here Thursday that Iran fully backs international economic sanctions against South Africa. He also lauded Zimbabwe's opposition to U.S. policies on the racist Pretoria regime. Larijani said that sanctions would go a long way in disrupting Pretoria's economy and perhaps eroding its repressive and racist rule. The Iranian official furthermore praised Zimbabwe's Foreign Minister Witness Mangwende for his statement made last week reprimanding Washington and Britain for refusing to impose economic sanctions on South Africa, which led to a walkout from U.S. independence day celebrations by former American President Jimmy Carter. Larijani criticized Washington's decision to think over the proposition of continuing aid to Zimbabwe noting "It is a shame to have to yield to any preconditions for maintaining aid to an independent country." The Iranian official is here to hand over to Zimbabwean officials Iranian aid for the upcoming nonaligned summit meet to be held in Harare in early September. /Text/ /Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 11 Jul 86 LD/ 12228

CSO: 4600/407



REGIME BLAMED FOR UNDERMINING VALUES ACHIEVED BY WOMEN

London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Jun 86 pp 6, 15

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] Meskin Hoseyn Mansur "Hallaj" had a tall manlike sister. She was walking pompously with half of her face covered with a veil and the other half uncovered. A nobleman met her and asked, "Why haven't you covered the other half of your face?" She answered: "I cannot see a man in front of me; show me your manliness so that I can cover my face. There is only one man throughout Baghdad and that is Hoseyn Mansur."

Marsad Al-Ebad

The regime's campaign against our country's women has reached a sensitive point. High and low ranking mullahs have been driven to extremities by the women and their resistance. Mullah Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Republic Majlis, says: "As much as we talk gently to the women about the Islamic veil, improper veils and the unveiled, they do not listen, therefore we are forced to use other policies." Mullah Qeraati, the polite and sedate lecturer of television, states: "We have repeatedly pointed out to the pasadaran and members of the Komitehs to be content by giving only notification to the women even if it takes several times and not to inconvenience them. The real purpose of religious guidance in Islamic law is nothing but this. But they don't listen to our suggestions and behave improperly. "The president of the Sari Revolutionary Court says: "After the war with the pagan Saddam, our greatest duty is to fight against improper and insignificant veils, and we will ask for the help of the hezbollah people in this regard. Mullah Khoeniha, the prosecutor general of the regime, talks about the enactment of new laws for the campaign against the women's arrogance and has strongly notified the owners of boutiques, shops and department stores which sell women's luxury goods and cosmetics and display samples of women's lingerie in their windows. Following this pressure, the decision to close more than 5,000 boutiques in Tehran was enforced. Finally, in addition to the pasdaran patrol, the Komitehs, the Sar-Allah, Zeynab and others under the supervision of the new National Organization for the Campaign Against Unlawful Acts, two new patrols named the Educated Sisters and Literate Brothers, will enter the streets and localities in order to decrease the degree of harshness. The new director replaced the former director who failed in his plans and programs and has

repeated all the statements of the higher and lower ranking mullahs. He has again threatened that we first invite the sisters to observe the Islamic veil with loud speaker equipped-vehicles and if we do not succeed, then rapid measures will be taken by the new groups against those found guilty.

The extent of the campaign against improper and insignificant veils, which basically does not have any Islamic justification, indicates the degree of the mullah's regime's fears of the various resistances, as the mullahs put it, the self agitation of the women and young girls of the nation. This regime even selects the color and style of the women's underwear and condemns women not on the basis of their political opposition but for the way they are dressed and uses the color and style to imprison, fine and flog. This regime prevents the women from choosing their own professions or field of study. It finds husbands for the respectable martyr families, meaning those whose men have been martyred, disabled or are missing in the war, and auctions them among the disabled, injured or unemployed war returnees and even arranges interest free loans to the men for these arranged marriages. On the other side, it sends the women and young girls to the war fronts and their leaders don't even remember that only a few years ago, when there was talk about the young girls and womens mobilization in the Shah's White Revolution corps, they themselves called this move religiously prohibited and the precursor of corruption. What freedom remains for women to claim? The mullahs were right when they stated that they are not Iranian and apparently they are Islamic. Maybe this is the only true statement that has been made from their president, to the narrators of the tragedies of Karbela in the mosques and religious gathering places, to the Qoran readers of the graveyard.

But the point is never based on history, precedents, or the purpose and history of the establishment of the Islamic veil or unveiling, but on how the failure of the mullahs and their regime in confronting this question is cited. This point is an example that if they had the slightest social understanding and comprehension of their surroundings they would easily realize that the majority of our women and young girls are living in villages and that they have a traditional and sedate costume. They wrap their prayer veils around their waist and with bare heads and feet work side-by-side with their men in the fields, villages, and homes and sell their products in the farmers markets. The tribal women inhabitants and nomads of each region dress according to their ancient tribal traditions and adorn themselves with ornaments and jewels. They ride, plough, transplant and raise cattle side-by-side with the men. Not only are their costumes and coverings not based on the mullah's standards, but they are quite opposite to the mullah's dress code. The black veil is basically the result of the encounter of the rural and tribal style of veil with urban civilization and does not have religious or tribal genuineness. Whereas the 'Aba,' long tunic, turban, and slipper is not a symbol of the Islamic clergy and at one time, it was the costume of the public. At present, it is generally used in many Muslim countries with slight differences depending on the environment like among the Kurdish tribe. In fact, the mullah's imposed veil is their imposition on Islamic religion and Shi'ite sects. Large groups of Palestinians, Afghans, Sudanese and Indian Sikhs wear turbans, but in their religion, they are neither ayatollahs nor narrators of the tragic events of Karbala.

A more important question than the veil is women's makeup and ornamentation, which despite gradual assimilation, is still seen in the rural areas and among many middle class rural and feudal families that are now urbanized, such as removing facial hair with thread, the use of rouge and sefidab [white powder mixed with water used instead of powder], surmeh [eyeliner] for eyes and other old fashioned cosmetics. The use of makeup is not a crime from either a religious or social and national point of view. The use of cosmetics is a woman's right in order to protect her freshness and beauty and the right to use them does not only belong to those women who use international brands like Christian Dior, Pierre Cardin, Elizabeth Arden or Max Factor, but all the other women. No religious leader or personality has opposed the ornamentation or beautification of women, but the mullahs have appeared and declared that the use of rouge, powder, mascara, modern surmeh and lipstick each carry a 5,000 rial fine and the use of any other kind of makeup has the same fine. In this manner, it is completely evident that the purpose of the regime in being strict about improper and insignificant veils is not a campaign against these two factors but is a fight against women and the expression of their personalities and their anti-mullah profile. It is easy to realize that by closing the boutiques and ladies' beauty salons, these centers will be transferred to the people's homes and will give new excuses to the Komiteh members, pasdars and the new patrol units for extortion. The cosmetic and lingerie smugglers will also take advantage of the exorbitant prices for these items and become more active.

It is such a bitter epoch: Was the freedom and personality legally achieved by the women of Iran in a society which had paved the road to the earth and sky for them only a dream? That security and safety which relied on the laws and national Iranian traditions, had proceeded Iranian women, and was advancing women from gymnasiums to complicated legal trials, to the areas of industry, arts and culture, is now annihilated along with its universities and hospitals and medical, scientific and research institutions. The young girls and women who have not awakened from this profound sleep for a long time, assumed these events were a joke and like many of our beloved intellectuals, were deceived by Khomeyni and without thinking of the consequences, wearing veils, participated in the so-called revolutionary demonstrations and gatherings. The criminals and traitors, who were also covered in black veils to secretly hide their weapons, mixed with the women, placed carnations in the soldier's rifles, and crying God is Great, were burned in the fire that they aroused with their own hands.

Today, the fate of the Iranian women inside the country is in the hands of murderers, wrench carriers, patrols for creating fear and terror, professional concubine dealers and the greedy and pretentious narrators of the tragic events of Karbala. At present, everything is exactly the opposite of the past, when any achievement or success by the Iranian women in the international arena was welcomed as a victory for all of the women inside Iran and received as an indication of their freedom and the buoyancy of their spirit and personality. Today, the very same Iranian women who have achieved recognition in the international sphere or will eventually achieve it and have become famous must use all their efforts to prove the disgrace created by the regime

in confronting the women connected to Iran and Iranians. Also the dust and mist created by the cooperation of a group of ignorant sisters with the regime must be wiped from the face of the Iranian women and they must prove that these groups are not Iranian and this kind of women's behaviour is not part of the dignity and personality of the women of Iran.

Such is the reality: the Iranian women are those women who have driven Mr Rafsanjani to extremities. The Iranian women are those women whose personalities have not been injured or affected by any kind of recurrence, plot or criminal action of the mullahs. The Iranian women are those women that the obstinate mullahs, in order to subjugate them, intend to introduce new laws and establish new patrols against these women...

9815/12899

CSO: 4640/384

## ZIA ADDRESSES JOINT SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jul 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, July 8: President Gen Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, while addressing the joint session of the two Houses of Parliament on Tuesday, bitterly criticised the Pakistan People's Party, without naming it, and asserted that having suffered its long oppressive rule in the past, people would never be fooled again by its emotional appeals.

The President said that the call for observance of July 5 as a black day went unheeded. July 5 was not observed as a black day, instead the people had demonstrated that it was a day of deliverance. Had there been no July 5, he said, the long dark night of civil dictatorship would have endured. The country would not have come out of economic and political disaster; there would have been no end to oppression and the era of peace and tranquillity would not have begun; there would have been no beginning of Islamisation and there would have been no free and fair elections and no parliament and consequently, no democracy in the country.

In course of his 65 minutes speech, which almost entirely related to internal situation, the President gave a stern warning to those who might attempt to transgress the permissible limits of political freedom in the country. Gen Zia-ul-Haq said that the present political

freedom, which was concomitant of a democratic system, was allowed deliberately. He said the Government consciously believed in democracy and was keen to ensure that this journey of democracy should continue.

However, if the recognised norms of fair democratic play were flouted by the Opposition, he warned, it was no problem for the Government to deal with such a situation. However, the President assured, the present government would not resort to such repressive measures to crush the opposition.

The President emphasised the representative character of the present parliament and said that its members had been duly returned by the people in free and fair elections. Those who had missed the bus at the time of elections to the Parliament, he further said, would have to wait till 1990 when Inshallah the polls would be held again. He told the members that if necessary, he was prepared to guarantee that no change would be permitted till 1990 and that a change would come about only through ballot at the appointed time.

President Zia has regretted that there were some elements in the country who propagated the Quaid-i-Azam was opposed to Islamic system of government in Pakistan (Agencies report).

The President said the Quaid-i-Azam had dreamed of a land where Muslims of the Sub-Continent would lead an Islamic life and all laws were in accordance with Quran and Sunnah.

The President recalled his speech on Aug 12, 1983 when he mentioned the historic Muslim League meeting of 1944 in Karachi. In the meeting, the President said, Nawab Bahadur Yar Jang had rightly pointed out that the creation of Pakistan was not so difficult as was the task of truly making it Pakistan. In that meeting, the President continued, Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had said that Muslims need not formulate a constitution as their constitution was the Holy Quran and the Sunnah.

Earlier, the President lauded and commended that the present parliament (National Assembly and Senate) had only in one and a quarter year, set unprecedented standards of democracy in the country. He held this time as a beacon of light.

He remarked that it was not very difficult to stop the process of democracy, but it was extremely difficult to bring it back on the course of democracy, he added.

He criticised those who, due to their own vested interest were propagating that Quaid-i-Azam did not cherish Islamic system of government for Pakistan.

Referring to the accusation levelled against him for not enforcing complete Islamic order in the country, he pointed out that our first duty was to inculcate Islamic thought among the people. He recalled that before 1977, no work had been done regarding the implementation of Islam. Therefore, the martial law government had to do all the spadework.



For that, he pointed out, "We consulted all the religious scholars within and outside the country and successfully prepared the basic Islamic guideline in the field of economy, law and politics.

He said that he was able to continue martial law for the purpose of enforcing complete Islamic order in the country, but wanted in the core of his heart that the credit of Islamisation must go to an elected government.

He told the House, that, "I wanted to Islamise the society through an evolution."

He opined that the only credit which went to martial law regime was of laying a firm foundation for erecting a beautiful and durable building of Islamic system.

The President emphatically said that the people of Pakistan were anxiously waiting the enforcement of Islam.

He congratulated the Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, Federal Minister for Justice Mr Iqbal Ahmed, Chairman of Senate and all the Senators for passing the Ninth Amendment Bill unanimously in the Senate. The President observed that it was a historic accomplishment because the bill guaranteed the supremacy of Shariah over all the other laws and enjoined upon the Muslims of Pakistan to lead their lives individually as well as collectively according to the teachings of Islam. He hoped that the National Assembly would also pass the bill unanimously without delay.

He said an important aspect of the Ninth Amendment is that it has extended the jurisdiction of the Federal Shariat Court. It would have the power to review all existing laws to bring them within the ambit of the injunctions of Quran and Sunnah.

He said the real task is the implementation and enforcement of Islamic Shariat rather than just passage of the bill. However, the job done today has raised the prestige of the entire House and given pride to the nation. It would open the way for taking further steps to bring about a true Islamic order in the country.

The President expressed his confidence that just as the Ninth Amendment Bill has been passed

unanimously through mutual understanding, the Shariat Bill moved by private members would also be adopted in the same spirit after important amendment agreed mutually. The two bills would herald complete enforcement of Islamic system in the country, he added.

He said he considered the private members' bill as interpretative of Quranic injunctions. The Ninth Amendment Bill has provided constitutional framework of the Shariat Bill, he added. Under this bill, nobody from President to a common man would be regarded above law.

In this connection, he referred to the Hujjatulwida Khutba of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) and said that it were these Islamic values, which resulted in the expansion of Islam throughout Arabia, after the victory of Mekkah. Truth, justice and honesty were glorified, he added.

The President regretted the inconsistency between word and deed in the present era and said that the Islamic values should also be introduced in this sphere of our lives as well.

The President informed the House that he had always stressed for nobility in politics and referred to the 1979 local bodies elections, which had yielded positive results in producing a leadership dedicated to the welfare of the people. These institutions, he said, were rendering useful and laudable service for the people.

Gen Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq also referred to the budget for the current financial year, adopted by the National Assembly last month and noted with satisfaction that it was in consonance with the Prime Minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo's five-point programme, for the welfare of the masses. This budget, he noted, laid special emphasis on the uplift of underdeveloped and rural areas, eradication of illiteracy, checking of twin menace of waterlogging and salinity, provision of old age benefits, creation of job opportunities, and availability of better power, water and other basic facilities.

The President extended his felicitations to the National Assembly for adopting this balanced budget, which reflected the aspirations of the entire population of the country.

Gen Zia-ul-Haq also congratulated the Federal Finance Minister, Mr Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo, who despite not being well versed with fiscal matters, had produced a budget, capable of delivering good results.

The President hoped that efforts would continue to be made to uphold the spirit of Islamic fiscal system in our future financial policies.

In this connection, Gen Zia-ul-Haq appreciated the contributions of the Institute of Islamic Development and Pakistan Institute of Economic Development, and expressed the hope that these institutions would lend a supporting hand to the government in attuning its fiscal policies to Islamic tenets.

The President stressed due attention should be paid to improving education system and positive approach in the educational institutions were the two fundamental points, which deserved special consideration.

He also stressed that the educational institutions should never be allowed to be turned into political arenas.

The President urged members of the Parliament to maintain unity. He said if they ever faced any difficulty in the process of furthering the cause of democracy, it would be due to weakness within them and not on account of outside forces.

As far as the forces outside were concerned, the President assured the members of the House that they would be taken care of properly and there was no cause for concern on that account. These forces, he said, were power-hungry and had no solid or concrete programme to offer to the masses. The people knew fully their game and were aware of their past misdeeds and the forces at the back.

Before concluding his address, the President said he would also touch on Afghanistan issue which had forced nearly three million Afghan people to seek shelter in Pakistan, following forcible occupation of their homeland by Russian forces.

Pakistan, he said, could not remain aloof or indifferent to this issue and would not forsake its principles.

The people of Afghanistan, he said, by waging a relentless struggle against a super power, were

awakening the conscience of humanity. The entire free world was on their back and they would triumph in their struggle ultimately, he hoped.

The President said Pakistan was providing material and moral support to Afghan refugees because the Afghan Mujahideen were fighting battle for the defence and security of Pakistan. "Pakistan will not compromise on principles on this issue", the President said.

President Zia requested Senator Qazi Abdul Latif to offer prayer for the solidarity and integrity of Pakistan and establishment of a truly Islamic welfare state in the country.—APP/PPI.

/13046

CSO: 4600/408

## SENATE DEBATE ON SHARIAT BILL REPORTED

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jul 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, July 8: Senate unanimously adopted the Constitution (Ninth Amendment) Bill, 1986 on Tuesday for the enforcement of complete Shariat in the country.

The Bill, adopted with some amendments, was moved by Federal Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Iqbal Ahmed Khan on Tuesday, will now be forwarded to the National Assembly for consideration and passage.

The House, however, rejected an amendment, moved by Senator Wasim Sajjad, to Clause 4 of the Bill.

The unanimous adoption of the Bill, which was greeted by Senators with prolonged thumping of desks, will allay the apprehensions in certain quarters about the Government's intentions and sincerity for upholding the supremacy of Shariah in the country.

Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo felicitated the Senators for taking interest in the passage of the Bill, without opposition, and reiterated the Government's commitment that Shariat would be completely enforced in all spheres of life.

He recalled his address to the nation, on Dec 31, last year, and said he had, categorically, made it clear that complete Islamic order would be introduced in the country, in keeping with its ideological moorings, and the passage of this Bill amply demonstrated the Government's determination to achieve this objective.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed, Qazi Abdul Latif, Prof Khurshid Ahmed, Shahzada Jehangir Jogezi, Mr Abdur Rahim Mirdadkhel and Mr Inayat Khan, in their reciprocal speeches, after the Prime Minister's address, expressed confidence that the passage of the Bill would lead to the nation's progress, besides inviting Almighty Allah's blessings.

Some of the Senators expressed the hope that the Shariat Bill would also be adopted with the same spirit.

Federal Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Iqbal Ahmed Khan expressed gratitude to the Senators for their cooperation in the unanimous passage of the Constitution (Ninth Amendment) Bill, 1986, which was reflective of the Government's anxiety to expeditiously enforce Shariat in the country.

He assured the Senators that the Shariat Bill would also be adopted in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation.

Earlier the Senate resumed its session in the morning with Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan presiding. The proceedings began with recitation from the Holy Quran.

After the disposal of privilege and adjournment motions, the House resumed discussion on the Constitution (Ninth Amendment) Bill, 1986, as reported by the Standing Committee.

**SECOND READING:** Initiating the second reading on the Bill, the Minister for Justice and

Parliamentary Affairs moved an amendment to Clause 2 of the Bill as received from the Standing Committee.

Mr Ahmed Mian Soomro, pointing out a minor mistake asked for its rectification. Mr Wasim Sajjad and Prof Khurshid Ahmed endorsed Mr Soomro's contention.

The Justice Minister said the amendment was perfectly alright. However, if the member emphasises, his point can be accepted. When put before the House, the amendment moved to Clause 2 and the amendment by Mr Soomro was approved by 65 votes.

The house also carried Clause 3 of the Bill by 63 votes, when put to vote.

Senator Wasim Sajjad moved an amendment to Clause (that in Clause 4 of the Bill, as reported by the Standing Committee, in the proposed new Clause 3 A, after the words in respect of occurring: the first line, the words "Muslim Personal Law" be inserted, which was opposed by Prof Khurshid Ahmed, Qazi Hussain Ahmed, Qazi Abdul Lateef and Pir Syed Mohammad Shah (Gambat Sharif).

Speaking in favour of the amendment, Mr Wasim Sajjad said the existing set up should not be disturbed till the passage of the relevant laws by Parliament.

**CONTINUITY:** He contended that the existing family laws should be carried on in order to ensure continuity in respect of the provisions of the Family Laws Ordinance, during the intervening period of Federal Shariat Court's

verdict on it and the relevant legislation by Parliament.

The Senator quoted examples in favour of his amendment and said the process will disturb the rights of the people. He said no decisions should be made in haste in this regard.

Opposing the amendment, Qazi Hussain Ahmed said the Bill should not be excluded from the jurisdiction of the Federal Shariat Court. He said fiscal laws were exempted just because of the complications involved on the international level.

He criticised the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance of 1961, and said that Islamic social fabric was stable and strong covering all aspects of the Muslim society. And that it was much better than that of the Western system.

Qazi Abdul Lateef said it was an important issue which should be under the jurisdiction of the FSC. He said the Council of Islamic Ideology had already declared the Family Act of 1961 as against the injunctions of Islam.

Prof. Khurshid Ahmed said the Government has assured him that it will fully honour the agreement reached between the Opposition and the Government at the time of the Constitution (Eighth Amendment) Bill.

**LACUNAE:** He said the Constitution (Ninth Amendment) Bill had also some lacunae, but they will not compromise on the Islamic principles. He said the concession regarding the fiscal system was permitted under certain compulsions otherwise, it was shameful to accept anything which has contrary to the Islamic injunctions.

The Senator said an important opportunity has been afforded for the projection of the Shariat laws. He said the Family Laws Ordinance was unanimously opposed by the people, including Ulema and intellectuals.

Referring to various objections raised by the mover, he said that according to the tenets of Islam, rights of every individual have been secured.

He said limits set by Quran and Sunnah should not be exceeded and all such issues should be considered without being governed by sentiments. He said the amendment should not be carried by the House.

Pir Syed Mohamud Shah (Gambat Sharif) said the amendment was aimed at negating the provisions of Holy Quran and Sunnah which should not be accepted.

He said that despite a lapse of 40 years, Islamic system could not be enforced in the country, so far.

**CLARIFICATION:** Clarifying the points raised by the opponents, Mr Wasim Sajjad said his arguments were misunderstood by the members. He said that majority of the people had opposed the family laws of 1961 as indicated by the Council of Islamic Ideology.

He said what he wanted was that the existing family laws should continue till the legislation by Parliament. He questioned why the Muslim family laws could not be treated like fiscal laws.

When put before the House, the amendment was unanimously rejected.

Mr Wasim Sajjad did not move his second amendment to Clause 4.

When the Chairman put Clause 4, with sub-clause A and B and proviso, before the House, it was carried by 64 votes.

The Justice Minister moved an amendment to Clause 1 for substitution of 1985 as 1986 which was adopted. Mr Iqbal Ahmed also moved an amendment to the preamble, which was also carried.

When the Chairman put before the House, preamble, Clause 1, short title as amended, it was carried by 67 votes in favour.

The Justice Minister moved that the Bill further to amend the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Constitution (Ninth Amendment) Bill, 1986, be passed. The Bill was carried by 67 votes in favour which was more than two-third majority.

**SPIRIT:** Qazi Hussain Ahmed said the Government should pass the Shariat Bill with the same spirit as it showed in the adoption of Constitution (Ninth Amendment) Bill.

He demanded that for an early passage of the Shariat Bill, Wednesday's session be held as a Private Members' Day.

Congratulating the Prime Minister, Qazi Abdul Latif prayed for complete Islamisation of the country. He said the passage of Shariat Bill would help enforce the Nizam-i-Shariat in Pakistan.

Felicitating Mr Junejo, Prof. Khurshid Ahmed said that it was the first Parliament in Pakistan which had the honour of passing a Bill for the supremacy of Quran and Sunnah. He hoped that the Shariat Bill, already under the consideration of the House, would be passed with the same spirit and mutual understanding.

Mr Abdul Rahim Mirdadkhel, Mr Inayat Khan and Shahzada Jahangir Shah Jokezai also hailed the Bill's passage.

Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Iqbal Ahmed Khan said that the adoption of the Bill, under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Khan Junejo, had removed all constitutional impediments in the enforcement of complete Nizam-i-Shariat in the country.

The Father of the Nation, he said, had pledged to the Muslims of the Subcontinent and Almighty Allah for enforcement of Quran and Sunnah in a separate homeland. The dream of Quaid-i-Azam, he said, has been fulfilled with the adoption of the Bill.

Mr Iqbal Ahmed Khan said he would not give any arguments about the Shariat Bill now. However, he said, he did not agree with the contention of Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmed.

**ASSURANCE:** He held out an assurance that the Government would participate with the same spirit in the passage of the Shariat Bill which it showed in the adoption of Constitution (Ninth Amendment) Bill in the Senate.

It is a very crucial issue, and the Government will continue to seek their guidance in this regard, he said.

Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan termed the adoption of Constitution (Ninth Amendment) Bill a historic decision in Pakistan. The Bill, he observed, will pave the way for complete Islamisation of the country.

He said the adoption of the Bill with mutual understanding and cooperation was praiseworthy. The Bill, he opined, was in conformity with the requirements of the Shoorai Nizam.

The Chairman then adjourned the House to meet again on July 10 at 11 a.m.—APP

## BHUTTO SAYS GOVERNMENT 'DEVELOPING SERIOUS CRACKS'

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jul 86 pp 1, 4

[Text]

RAWALPINDI, July 8: PPP Co-Chairman Benazir Bhutto said on Tuesday that some recent symptoms convinced her that the Government has started developing serious cracks as a result of mass pressure for fresh election.

National Assembly Speaker's dramatic removal and the rulers' sudden, but hidden, support to a section of Ulema were apparent signs of "nervousness" and "confusion".

Ms Bhutto, who was speaking at a lawyers' gathering at Rawalpindi Bar, said she failed to understand why the military rulers did not try to implement the Shariat Bill during their nine-year rule when it was a pretty easy job for them to enforce it through a Martial Law regulation.

Like other Muslims, she said, she was not against the Shariat Bill, but the masses must know why such a sensitive issue was played up at this particular juncture.

She said she knew that the confused ruling class had made a vain attempt to divert the masses' attention from the real political issues. President Zia, through a hidden word of assurance to a section of Ulema, wanted to win their support against the mounting pressure for fresh election in next autumn.

Gen Zia's idea of disuniting MRD by winning some of its religious component parties over to his side, would never work, she maintained.

"How a man like President Zia, who, during his nine-year rule stood for Martial Law's supremacy, be sincere in enforcing civil or Islamic laws in the country," she questioned.

Lawyers who fought persistently for judicial supremacy in the country for nine years could easily judge President Zia-ul-Haq's sincerity and intention about the Shariat Bill's implementation, Ms Bhutto asserted.

She said a remarkable achievement of PPP was that it had given the nation a unanimously-passed Constitution, which, was only source of keeping the country united.

Ms Bhutto enquired from the lawyers as to how they would describe a man who amended the Constitution only to grind his own axe freely. She saluted the lawyers who stood for human rights and supremacy of judiciary and did not surrender before the military rulers' atrocities.

Ms Bhutto, who answered lawyers' questions about the current unrest in the country, said the rulers, through an organised plan, had tried to create misunderstanding between Sind and Punjab which, she feared, may lead to disintegration of the country.

The factual position, she told the lawyers, was that people in Sind were patriots and stood for a united Pakistan.

About her party's stand on the controversial issue of Kalabagh Dam, Ms Bhutto said she would not encourage any idea which would harm national integrity.

Asked by a lawyer as to how PPP, being an 'unregistered party, could take part in the general elections, she said that technically her party was registered because PPP had shown its accounts to the Election Commission.

As far as Political Parties Act was concerned, it seemed, she said, it was tailored to fit PPP. The only thing which prompted rulers to introduce Political Parties Act was that they had to keep PPP away from the polls, she added.

PPP, through its peaceful movement, would force the rulers to hold general election before autumn, Ms Bhutto firmly told a questioner.

Answering another question, she said her father had been accused of Bangladesh's creation, but no one took notice of those elements who are creating a situation which would give birth to more than one Bangladesh in the country.

It was she alone, Ms Bhutto said, who could unite the country and has the ability to defuse impact of confederation slogan.

Her party, she said, was more than ready to join hands with all political parties willing to demonstrate their resistance against the present setup.

Earlier, Bar Association President Raja Ajaib Khan, in his welcome address, asked Ms Bhutto to abstain from making remarks against other Opposition leaders during her speech which, he said, might hurt those lawyers having association with other political parties.



## REGIME, JI CRITICIZED FOR 'STREET POLITICS' ON SHARIAT

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jul 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

KARACHI, July 8: Leaders of over half a dozen political parties have strongly disapproved of the way "street pressure" was applied in Islamabad the other day on the parliamentarians by a section of people for "immediate passage" of the Shariat Bill, currently under discussion in the Senate.

The consensus that emerged from the interviews held separately with them here on Tuesday was that the introduction of Shariat Bill was "totally uncalled for" in view of the in-built mechanism for the Islamisation of laws contained in the 1973 Constitution as well as the Objectives Resolution itself.

At the same time, fear was expressed that with a particular party's "agitational approach, aided and abetted by bureaucracy" on ecclesiastical matters was likely to lead to sharp divisions among the various sects.

The most scathing criticism came from Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani, President of the Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan, who saw in the "stage-managed" demonstration in Islamabad a move to enforce "Maudoodism to the liking of Gen Zia" in the country.

The Maulana demanded that Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo institute an independent inquiry as to which Muslim countries financed the pro-Shariat Bill demonstrators. "If Gen Zia can publicly implicate Libya (with regard to funding of the PPP's massive shows), I may be permitted to name Saudi Arabia for being interested

in the Jamaat-i-Islami-led demonstration in Islamabad," he said.

The JUP chief asked what was the need to clamour for the enforcement of Shariat now when the Jamaat-i-Islami, a partner in the civilian government under the umbrella of Martial Law, had in February 1978, called for a day's national rejoicing following the enforcement of Hudood Ordinance and the setting up of Shariat Courts. "At that time, the Jamaat-i-Islami had taken the credit of enforcing Shariat and had appealed to the public to offer thanksgiving to God. If that claim was justified, then where lies the need for the pro-Shariat demonstration now", he asked rhetorically.

Maulana Noorani said he fully endorsed the clear-cut stand taken by Pir Sahib Pagara to the "Zia-sponsored and Jamaat-i-Islami-led street demonstration" and said that like Pir Sahib, he also considered it a move to divert public attention from vital national issues.

What was the hitch to enforce Nizam-i-Islam in its entirety during the eight-and-a-half years of Martial Law when Gen Zia had indisputable authority and could have got any legislation passed from his "hand-picked, nominated Majlis-i-Shoora," he asked?

"Pir Pagara has spoken truth, and that too, so candidly in the national interest and I support every word of his comment on the Shariat

Bill," the Maulana said. It was the JUP's stand that all laws would have been brought in conformity with the injunctions of the Holy Quran and Sunnah, had the 1973 Constitution been implemented in letter and spirit, he added.

Khwaja Khairuddin, President of his own faction of the Pakistan Muslim League, said there was no need for introducing the Shariat Bill in view of the Objectives Resolution and the provision contained in the 1973 Constitution that all laws in the land would be in conformity with the injunctions of the Holy Quran and the Sunnah.

The demonstration held in Islamabad by supporters of a particular party was at the behest of Gen Zia, who, as he put it, had earlier called on the people to put pressure on the parliament to adopt the Shariat Bill. The entire exercise, was to perpetuate "one-man rule" by creating confusion in the body politic, Khwaja Khairuddin said.

Syed Qaim Ali Shah, member of the PPP's Central Executive, said the 1973 Constitution, unanimously adopted by all the political parties, had an in-built mechanism to Islamise all laws in the country — a job which only the political parties could complete by building a national consensus.

Sardar Sherbaz Khan Mazari, former NDP President, said that if the 1973 Constitution was to be restored in its original form and substance, the present sectarian, regional and parochial differences would be settled. Only the political parties were capable of promoting national unity and integrity, he added.

Hakim Jamaluddin, member of Central Committee of the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (Fazlur Rahman Group), wondered why Shariat was not enforced during the unchallenged, authoritarian Martial Law period? He criticised the "hasty passage" of the Ninth Amendment Bill, saying that questions of fundamental importance ought to be circulated for eliciting public opinion.

Mr Mohammad Jamil Chaudhry, member of the Tehrik-i-Istaqlal National Working Committee, opined that the proposed Shariat Bill was not going to make any difference since the 1973 Constitution, which should be immediately restored, had all the necessary checks, and counter-checks for the same purpose.

Besides the Shariat Courts, the Supreme Court has been taking care to interpret Islamic jurisprudence and rights of the citizens in an Islamic polity in a forthright manner, he pointed out.

Messrs Abid Zuberi and B.M. Kutty, Central Information Secretaries of the National Democratic Party and the Pakistan National Party respectively dismissed the Islamabad pro-Shariat Bill demonstration as a "hoax". However, they said it was risky to play with the sectarian sensitivities of the people. Religion, in any case, should not be made an issue, they warred.

Mr Bostan Ali Hoti, member, PML Working Committee, said Pir Pagara should be felicitated for speaking truth so frankly, while disavowing the Jamaat-i-Islami-led and Government-sponsored move. He urged the Muslim Leaguers to follow the lead given by Pir Sahib and unite to "undo all fissiparous and tendentious trends" which harm national unity and integrity.

Mr Mahmood Azam Farouqi, Amir, Jamaat-i-Islami (Karachi), on the other hand, said that with their demonstration, the Ulema and their followers had proved their unbounded love for Islam and endorsed the demand for an early passage of the Shariat Bill (now in the Senate).

Mr Farouqi, thanked the national Press, barring some exceptions, for giving wide coverage to the pro-Shariat Bill demonstration in Islamabad.

## POPULATION, OTHER STATISTICS REPORTED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 10 Jul 86 p 3

## [Text]

Pakistan has become the 9th most populous country in the world after its population has been estimated at 97.67 million in mid-1986, it was officially learnt in Karachi.

According to official estimates, the population was growing at the natural rate of 3.20 per cent per year.

However, due to substantial emigration abroad, the growth rate has declined to 3.06 per cent per year.

Both rates have been the highest in south Asia and among the highest as compared to other Muslim countries, it added.

The rate of growth of population has accelerated since the beginning of the century. From around 1.8 per cent per year in the 1930s and 1940s, population growth accelerated after 1950, as the crude death rate (CDR) per thousand declined from 18.7 in 1946, to 17 in 1962, to 10 in 1984, while the crude birth rate (CBR) continued to be almost constant at 42 per thousand.

As a result, the fertility level has been high (around 6.5), despite a

high infant mortality rate (about 119 per thousand live births, compared to around 50 in most countries in south east Asia).

Pakistan remained primarily a rural economy, only 28 per cent of the population resides in urban areas, of which, 42 per cent live in the four major cities — Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad and Rawalpindi/Islamabad.

Despite the fact that urban population was still 28 per cent of the total, it has increased rapidly due to internal migration from rural areas.

In addition to migration within the country, over four million people had migrated to Pakistan from Azad Kashmir and Northern Areas, India, Bangladesh and other countries.

Of these immigrants, the sources added, 68.2 per cent settled in Punjab, 29 per cent in Sind and the remaining 2.8 per cent in NWFP, Baluchistan and Islamabad.

In addition to the migrant population, reported in the census, some three million refugees from Afghanistan were presently settled in Pakistan, it added.—APP.

/13046

CSO: 4600/409

# SIND CHIEF MINISTER ANNOUNCES MINIMUM WAGE

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jul 86 p 1

[Text]

KARACHI, July 8: Sind Chief Minister Syed Ghous Ali Shah has said minimum wages of every worker in the province would be Rs 1,000 per month with immediate effect.

Till such time as an order is issued in this regard, all workers getting less than Rs 1,000 would be getting Rs 50 per month in addition to their wages, he added.

He made this announcement amidst applause by workers at the ownership award ceremony held at Landhi Labour Square.

The Chief Minister asked the Workers Welfare Board to go through the details of the matter, prepare cases of such workers who were drawing salary at less than Rs 1,000 per month and hold negotiations with their employers in this respect.

At the same time, he advised the workers, to work hard and made their employers feel that their mission was the progress and prosper-

ity of the country and the nation.

He further declared that those drawing a salary less than Rs 1,000 per month will be paid Rs 50 per month additionally till such time their cases were finally decided.

The Sind Chief Minister urged upon the workers not to be swayed away by catchy slogans being raised by those whom they had tested in the past.

He said that they must be knowing about the political conditions obtaining in the country. They must be remembering those who had come to them for vote but never turned up again after having voted into power.

What they did to the people and the workers is not forgotten by them. They were again raising the same slogans today to hoodwink the masses, the Chief Minister said.

He said that the present government was fully committed to the people. They will never find it lagging behind in the implementation of its commitment. PPI/APP

/13046

CSO: 4600/409

## SIND GIVES HOUSING OWNERSHIP RIGHTS TO WORKERS

Karachi DAWN in English 9 Jul 86 pp 1, 4

[Text]

KARACHI, July 8: The Sind Chief Minister, Syed Ghous Ali Shah, today awarded the ownership rights of 2,647 family flats and houses to workers in four labour colonies in Landhi, Korangi, North Karachi and SITE.

The event was held at the Labour Colony, Landhi, where the Chief Minister also announced a 21-point welfare policy of his Government for the labourers of Sind province before a grand function attended by a large number of workers.

Under the new scheme, the flats and houses occupied by the workers would be allotted to them on a down-payment of Rs 2,000/ only and the rest of the amount recovered in easy instalments during a period of 11-18 years.

The Chief Minister announced that the amount paid by allottee workers as rent of their flats or houses since January 1985 will be considered as part of down-payment towards the cost of the premises. The amount spent on the maintenance of the flats and houses since January 1985 will also not be included in the cost, he announced.

The Chief Minister also announced that widows, handicapped and blind workers who would be given allotment orders will be exempted from any payment for the allotted premises.

Announcing the Labour Welfare Policy, the Chief Minister declared that some of the concessions provided in it will be implemented forthwith, while work on others will be started shortly.

The main features of the welfare policy announced by the Chief Minister were as under:

— Besides award of ownership rights to workers of 2,647 family flats and houses today, another 400 under-construction houses will also be given to workers on ownership basis.

— 8,810 residential plots developed in Sind will be allotted to workers during the current financial year.

— 344 bachelors' flats in SITE Labour Square and Kotri Labour Square will be converted into family flats for which Rs 173,000 have been provided.

— Arrangements will be made for construction of buildings by the Education Department and opening of schools in various labour squares and colonies.

— Overhead and underground water tanks will be constructed in SITE, Korangi and Landhi Labour Squares at a cost of Rs 4.534 million.

— Parks will be developed for children in labour colonies at a cost of Rs 625,000.

— Playfields would be provided for workers at Karachi and Hyderabad and for this purpose Rs 1.35 million would be spent.

— 4,200 children of industrial workers would be provided the facility of obtaining education after matriculation for which Rs 12.6 million has been provided for educational scholarships.

— Scholarships will also be given to 2100 industrial workers who desired to get further education. For this purpose, Rs 2.1 million have been provided.

— Financial assistance will be provided to industrial workers or their children if they wished to learn typing or shorthand. For this purpose, Rs 3.78 million will be spent.

— An amount of Rs 5.04 million has been provided for giving scholarships to such 2100 industrial workers who want to learn some skill or promote their skill capability.

— 800 low-paid workers would be given cycles free of cost.

— Utility stores will be opened in labour colonies for providing essential commodities to workers at low prices.

— Dispensaries will be opened by social security institution in labour colonies so as to provide medical facilities to workers nearer to their homes.

— Fans and water coolers will be provided in schools, wherever necessary, in different labour colonies.

— Necessary furniture will be provided to government schools in labour colonies.

— Concessional KTC bus fare will be charged from school-going children of workers.

— Government buses will be plied for the convenience of workers residing in Hyderabad Labour Colony.



-- Facilities will be provided for sports competitions and Tournaments between teams of labour colonies.

-- Seminars would be organised for enhancing the educational and practical skill of workers.

The Chief Minister announced that first such seminar will be organised within 3 months. For this purpose, he announced Rs 100,000/ to meet expenses.

Besides this, he said, a number of welfare projects were under consideration of the provincial government. These include construction of three community centres in Karachi's labour colonies, construction of four canteens for provision of food at subsidised rates, construction of four industrial homes in different labour colonies, establishment of four Secretariat training centres for children of workers in the province, establishment of two nurseries for the infants of working women, provision of funds for marriages of children of workers, establishment of library and reading room, construction of mosques, roads and setting up of shopping centres.

The Chief Minister expressed the hope that with these measures, a lot of improvement will come in the worker's living conditions and they would get the impetus to work hard.

At the same time he said the employers should also provide maximum facilities to workers so as to enable them to play their due role in increasing productivity in accordance with the Government policies and also in their own interest.

The Chief Minister said that the respect given to workers in Islam has no parallel in any other religion or social system. He said that an Islamic society was based on justice -- a society which safeguards the

rights of the weaker ones and takes care of the poor.

The Chief Minister said that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) has described the earners of "kizq-l-Halal" as beloved in the eyes of God. He pointed out that Islam has clearly demarcated the rights and responsibilities of both the employers and the employees, giving equal status to both in society.

He said that while talking about their rights, the employees must keep their responsibilities foremost before them and the employers should also see that they fulfill the legal rights of workers in a magnanimous manner.

Speaking on the occasion, the provincial Labour Minister Alhaj Shamimuddin said that the present government will tap all resources for the welfare of workers and provide them such facilities which would prove a milestone towards their economic progress and well being.

He referred to the settlement of dispute of 2500 workers of Adamji Cotton Mills, and said efforts were being made to settle the dispute of workers of Firdaus Textile Mills.

He said the government has provided housing facilities to some workers by constructing 3,662 flats and houses and developing 13,399 plots. But housing facilities are yet to be provided to many more.

He noted the Federal Government was reported to have stopped the construction of new houses and suggested an effort be made for the construction of more houses for workers.

Earlier, in his welcome address, the Secretary of Labour and Chairman, Workers Welfare Board, Mr Mohammed Jawed Ashraf Hussain, gave a review of the performance of WWB.

He said that in the construction sector, the Federal Government has so far provided Rs 80 million out of which 2,664 flats and 998 low-cost houses have been constructed at four places in Karachi and in Kotri and Hyderabad industrial areas at a cost of Rs 42.5 million.

Besides, 13,300 plots were developed in eight different places in the province, including SITF, Landhi, Korangi and North Karachi at a cost of Rs 35 million. Of them, 3,789 plots allotted to workers in Landhi at concessional price.

Earlier on arrival in the Landhi Labour Colony, the Chief Minister was given a rousing reception by a large number of workers who had come

from different places  
of Karachi. He was  
profusely garlanded and  
welcomed amidst slogans  
of Long live Pakistan,  
Quaidi-i-Azam, Prime  
Minister Mohammad Khan  
Junejo, Ghous Ali  
Shar and Pakistan Muslim  
League.--APP

/13046

CSO: 4600/408

## SIND POLITICS SAID MIXED WITH ROBBERS, OTHER OUTLAW ELEMENTS

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 12 Jun 86 p 3

[Editorial: "The Robbers and Their Supporters"]

[Text] There is no need to describe now the existing situation of law and order in Sind Province. In the interior of Sind especially, it appears as if the robbers and the anti-social elements have established a shadow regime there. However, we thank God that the government of Sind did comprehend the seriousness of the problem and relayed the good news to the people that after Eid, strong action would be taken against the robbers. Eid has already passed and we would hope that all the law-enforcement institutions in the interior of Sind have come into action with full swing, that we will soon be informed that Sind has been purified of robbers and that every person can sleep without fear in his home. We would also hope that the roads have become safe and travellers are no longer in danger now of being plundered on their way. The chief minister of Sind, Mr Ghaus Ali Shah, too, while talking to journalists after arriving at Sukkur from Karachi just one day before Eid, gave a very stern warning to the anti-social elements. As a result, it appears that the government has finally decided who should rule the province. The chief minister said that the forceful and effective drive against the robbers and the anti-social elements would continue until those elements were totally annihilated. He said that the administration was resolved to put an end to the activities of the criminal elements that are a threat to the life, property and honor of law-abiding citizens, that safeguarding the interests of the people was a moral obligation of the administration and that all possible measures would be taken in this regard.

According to available information, rather large scale preparations have been made to nip the robbers in the bud, and six districts have been chosen for this operation. Among them are the upper Sind districts of Jacobabad, Khairpur, Sukkur, Nawab Shah and Lardhkana, while only the district of Dadu has been selected from the lower Sind. The federal government's assistance has already been acquired for the extirpation of the robbers in these six districts. Para-military forces have commenced arriving in these areas, accompanied by armored vehicles and gunship helicopters. Witnessing these preparations, the local chapters of the People's Party are also launching a propaganda campaign that the aim of this operation is to take action on a large scale against the People's Party under the disguise of extirpating the robbers and that the

Party leaders and workers would be accused of patronizing the robbers. It should be borne in mind that while expressing his intention to act against the robbers, the chief minister has also said that under no circumstances will permission be granted for disruptive activities under the name of politics. On the other hand, one newspaper, citing well-informed sources, has claimed that after the failure of the MRD movement, the People's Party engaged, on a large scale, in organized plundering and, under cover of disorder created in Sind, distributed four truck-loads of advanced weapons to their supporters among the professional criminals living on either shore of the Sind River, in order to topple the present administration. As a result, the professional criminals who used to steal cattle and goats by using clubs, hatchets and pistols, are now equipped with Kalashnikovs and engage in full scale banditry. According to the newspaper, this fact has been disclosed in the reports of various detective and investigative institutions of the federal and provincial governments. According to these sources, Sind's notorious robber, Muthal Barohi, who was arrested at the Karachi Airport lounge last Friday, and other robbers in his gang, during their investigation, accused a prominent saint belonging to the People's Party of Khairpur District and feudatory brother of an executive leader of the People's Party who has connections with the Nawab Shah District of distributing advanced weapons among the professional criminals supporting them and residing on both banks of the Sind River, and also of supporting various gangs of the robbers. According to these sources, all three robbers arrested with the robber Muthal Barohi are educated and well-known as the leaders of a student organization. After committing a crime, they seek refuge with Sind's influential saints and high police officers, and in the hostel of the educational institutions. In the past, thanks to their contacts with certain high officials, they used to pass safely through airport inspections and leave the country. On this occasion also, Muthal Barohi and his companions, frightened of the strong commando action against the robbers, wanted to flee the country, but they were arrested at the airport lounge. If this information is true, it is possible that many influential personalities and officials will be unmasked. Perhaps this is the very reason that certain sectors, looking ahead, have started lamenting that they will be arrested. There is a strong possibility that this will happen, because the chief minister is declaring with great emphasis that those who are supporting the robbers and disruptionists will not be forgiven, either

The support by influential personalities of the law-breaking elements is not at all a new disclosure. This disruptive business cannot operate without such backing. At least, it definitely cannot become so strong that even the administration is practically helpless and nobody's life and property remain safe. Everyone is aware of the fact that in 1983, during the MRD movement, jails in Sind were broken into and dangerous convicts escaped from them. Other information being received is that these law-breaking elements took active part in the movement. Some time before that, the Sukkur jail was broken into in a very organized manner and even the prisoners sentenced to the death penalty were freed. It is not improbable that some sector that was desirous of agitation under the pretense of politics utilized their services. The individuals of such a group are certainly influential, because some political parties would be glad to include those who possess disruptive hands

among their ranks. On the other hand, the state of the strength of the robbers is such that they, too, have made complete preparations for a decisive clash with the law-enforcement institutions. They, too, possess sophisticated weapons. According to certain information, they have already acquired rocket-launchers, hand grenades, explosive mines and mortars. According to one newspaper, the villagers residing around the forests in which the robbers are hiding say that the robbers are in full control of both the right and left banks of the Sind River. On the right bank, there is the group of Chandu, while Qadu Sargai and the Khushk brothers rule the left bank. The robbers are leading a good life in a deserted place. Even in thick forests, they are receiving medicines and newspapers through unknown sources. The river passages in the districts of Khairpur, Lardkhana, Nawab Shah and Dadu are under the control of robbers.

To be provided with every facility and to practically establish an alternate government is utterly impossible, as long as the robbers do not have their own people in every department, from top to bottom. Therefore, the robbers and the disruptionists cannot be extirpated as long as their guardians are not wiped out. In the interior of Sind, everyone is aware of the secret that even an ordinary rope-twiner must keep the local influential personality happy and will not be able to continue with his business without receiving that person's cooperation. It is also highly likely that this influential personality is connected with some political party and that some group or party might complain about his arrest and declare it a measure of revenge. On this occasion, therefore, whereas we support every step taken by the administration to eradicate the robbers, we would also advise it not to make this occasion a source of harassment for the rival political parties and wipe out someone by declaring him a supporter of the robbers, without any proof. If caution is not exercised, the administration will gain nothing except disrepute and opposition.

9779/12795

CSO: 4656/104



COTTON: 'PROBLEMS OF PLENTY' DISCUSSED

Karachi DAWN in English 5-11 Jul 86 Business Supplement p III

[Article by S.M. Usman]

[Text]

ONLY two years ago, in 1983-84, we were faced with an acute shortage of cotton when the output suddenly dropped to half of the earlier years.

Owing to a massive pest attack for which neither the farmers nor our extensive Extension Agricultural Services were equipped or prepared, the output dropped from 5 million bales to barely 2.5 million bales. There was a sharp deterioration in the quality too.

But that is now a matter of the past. Meaningful lessons were drawn by the government from the adverse conditions and the Extension Services were alerted. A few progressive farmers who had made windfall gains owing to timely spraying with proper pesticides had the necessary demonstration effect on the others. The farmers started listening to the alerted Extension Services and imitated the progressive farmers.

The results were visible in the very next year when an above average crop of over 5.8 million bales (of 375 lbs) was achieved in 1984-85. Nothing succeeds like success and for the second year in succession the record was once again broken and a bumper crop of over 7.2 million bales was achieved in 1985-86.

### Record crop

Elated with the success of 1984-85 and 1985-86 seasons, farmers have planted cotton extensively and the output in the coming season — 1986-87 — beginning September 1, 1986 would not be less than 8.0 million bales. This would be the third season in succession with a bumper crop and a large exportable surplus.

But we are still to formulate a strategy for dealing with the problems created in the current season by the enormous surplus. We failed to face the problems of shortage in 1983-84 and took too little remedial measures, too late. We seem to be tackling the problems of plenty in the same cavalier fashion.

A loss of Rs. 2200 million has been suffered upto June 30, 1980 in the exports of cotton as indicated in the federal budget for 1986-87. And yet no thought seems to have been given to face the problem created by the plentiful availability of cotton.

Our domestic textile industry has been crying itself hoarse for over six months now, inviting attention to the serious repercussions which the sale of our own cotton to our competitors at low prices has been having on the prices of our cotton manufacturers in the world market.

On May 18, 1986 the Federal Cabinet decided to constitute a high-powered committee to identify the means for expanding consumption of cotton at home. That committee has yet to be constituted while the new cotton season is hardly two months away.

Correct lessons were learnt from the failure of 1983-84 and our farmers produced bumper cotton crops in the succeeding years. But farmers all over the world were also at it and there was record cotton crop everywhere. The world was covered with cotton.

China, which used to buy almost 5 to 6 million bales from around the world emerged as a large seller.

Minimum price support policy for agricultural output, which had helped produce the record crop in Pakistan could not be abandoned overnight. That was neither possible nor practical. The government wisely stuck to its announced policy and prepared itself to suffer heavy losses as international prices for cotton tumbled. (Price per lb. of cotton realised in 1983 was 53.60 US cents, in 1984 it was 62.17 cents, in 1985 it was 48.84 cents). The exact price realised in 1986 is not known.

The Cotton Export Corporation is reported to have claimed an average price of 37 cents per lb. But some indication of the losses to be suffered on account of exports of

cotton could be had from the budget speech of the Federal Finance Minister when he stated: "In order to protect the cotton growers from the slump in the world market, the government is absorbing a deficit of Rs. 220 crores."

According to the published data, CEC suffered loss of Rs. 117 millions in 1985. Loss for 1986 is not yet known. The budget documents do not specify year-wise loss being reimbursed. But it is believed, the subsidy of Rs. 2,207.80 million barely covers CEC's losses upto June 30, 1986.

### CEC sales

While the CEC wisely sold cotton at the going price, many in the world were left holding large stocks. (Cotton stocks in the US are believed to be over 9.80 million bales (of 480 lb). India lately wanted to export over one million bales but has failed to do so. So much for the critics of CEC's sales policy. If the CEC had followed their advice, we would still be holding very large cotton stocks and the critics would be lambasting ECE for not selling cotton.

Even with historically unprecedented exports (believed to be over 3.40 million bales of 375 lbs. each) it is believed, we will be left with a carryover stock of between 1.80 to 2.0 million bales.

So far the reports are that the crop in Punjab alone would be almost 7.0 million bales. Sind, where new seed has not been introduced for last few decades, was being left behind. Now, Sind farmers, have extensively sown the high yielding Niab '78 seed and are expecting a record 1.5 million bales.

With carryover of 2.0 million bales and expected new crop of about 8.0 million bales, the total availability will be about 10 million bales (of 375 lb each) in 1986-87.

The government of the United States of America, in the face of large cotton stocks and an expected crop of over 10 million bales (of 480 lb each), has decided to heavily subsidise their cotton exports and assured cotton trade that it will "match" any world price.

Since the American programme is to take effect from August 1, 1986, prices at New York Cotton Exchange have fallen drastically.

Forward contract for July 1986 delivery on June 20 closed at 68.30 cents per lb. while that for October 1986 delivery closed on the same date at 33.70 cents per lb. The October 1986 contract is cheaper by 32.60 cents/lb.

Multinational cotton traders, as usual, are reported to have sold Pakistan type AFZAL having staple length of 1.1/32" at 28.50 cents per lb. to Hong Kong spinners. This will work out approximately 25 cents/lb. fob Karachi. American cotton has been sold to Japan at 26 cents/lb.

Before the nationalisation of cotton trade, State Bank of Pakistan's export price check committee normally would expect price differential of 5 cents/lb. Assuming the same criteria, reasonable price of our cotton now is 21 cents/lb. or Rs. 291.54 per maund FOB at the exchange rate of Rs. 16.8714 to the dollar.

This price does not provide for procurement expenses, transportation from ginning factories spread all over Punjab and Sind, normal shortage, financing, insurance, handling charges and, of course, the export duty of 10% of fob value. If we reduce our price, American price will come down further.

In the face of the uncertainty about how low American and all other cotton prices will go, one cannot expect the local textile industry to pick up the 3.0 million bales, which the textile industry normally consumes annually because the international prices of Pakistan's cotton manufactures — cotton yarn, cloth, hosiery, towels, made-ups, garments, etc. — will also be affected by low international cotton prices.

The availability of cotton at extremely low prices to our competitors has already encouraged them to reactivate the spindles which were lying idle. They were forced to close those which were producing coarse counts of yarn in the face of competitive offers from Pakistan. We had virtually acquired a monopoly in the coarser counts of yarn in the world market.

But the sharp decline in the prices of yarn in our biggest market, Japan, has compelled our spinners to think twice before they produce more. In the course of just a quarter the prices of yarn in the Japanese market have slipped

from 80,000 yen to 68,000 yen per bale and the latest quotations are around 56,000 yen.

It would not, therefore be wrong to say that the domestic textile industry would not pick up 3 million bales in 1986-87 unless the high-powered committee starts giving serious thought to the task which has been assigned to it in respect of the surplus cotton which is already in hand out of 1985-86 cotton crop. Perhaps, that would set them thinking of the bigger surplus of 1986-87 which will be unloaded on the market from September 1, 1986.

### Way out

Under the existing policy, the Cotton Export Corporation will be faced with the task of purchasing bulk of cotton produced, store it and otherwise handle the record crop. However, enough storage space does not exist, especially when huge carryover stocks are already there.

We may again be compelled to export at throw away prices and make it impossible for our industry to survive. We must, therefore, explore ways and means of consuming more cotton at home.

While reactivation of closed units and expansion need priority, the immediate problem is to help domestic industry purchase more cotton and minimise the losses or the deficit to be absorbed by the government, as the Federal Finance Minister would prefer to call it and which has been estimated by experts at about Rs. 8000 million due to the fall in the world prices of cotton and the maintenance of the floor price to our farmer in FY 1986-87.

The only way out seems to be to induce the domestic textile industry to purchase their full year's requirement as early as possible.

Under the prevailing conditions in the world markets for cotton yarn and cotton manufactures, how the domestic industry could be induced to purchase such large quantity of cotton?

After some thought and discussions with knowledgeable circles in the cotton trade it is felt that with the extremely uncertain prices of cotton all over the world, the

domestic textile industry would purchase cotton only if some guarantee is available against inventory losses.

If somehow the industry could be insured against inventory losses and a mechanism could be devised, some headway could be made in working out a worthwhile strategy in dealing with the problems of plenty before they overwhelm us just as we were overwhelmed by the problems of shortage in 1984.

### **Mechanism**

The mechanism suggested is:

The mills should be designated as "Procurement Agents" of the government. The mills acting as such will only procure cotton for their own needs. Procurement will be financed by the banks on behalf of the government. The mills will procure cotton and store it in their mills godowns and will be responsible for insuring the same at government expense and will, together with the banks, be responsible for safe custody of the cotton. Mills should be responsible for the weight and quality of cotton procured. Mills will not be paid any procurement expenses or commission.

The government or its designated agency such as the State Bank, PBC or CEC may announce once a week the price for the week keeping in view prevailing international price of cotton. The mill will pay the price to the bank and take delivery of the cotton they need at the fixed price.

*The writer is the Secretary-General of the All-Pakistan Textile Millowners Association (APTMA).*

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